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26 April 1983

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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ELECTRICITY CORPORATION LOSES \$10 MILLION IN '82 FROM THEFT

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 18 Mar 83 p 4

[Text]

THE Guyana Electricity Corporation (GEC) has suffered a loss of some ten million dollars in electricity last year as a result of theft, said GEC commercial manager Mr John Backhouse.

Speaking at a public meeting summoned by the New Amsterdam Town Council Consumer Committee on Monday night Mr Backhouse said that in every area electricity was stolen by consumers involving both the big and the small man.

But the British specialist explained that he could not pin-point in which area the offence was most prevalent.

Mr Backhouse who was accompanied by GEC Commercial Manager designate Cde David Nurse and Regional Engineer Cde Edwards admitted that

the theft of electricity was due to some extent to inefficiency on the part of the corporation.

However, he told the people in New Amsterdam that drastic action would be taken against evil doers and pointed out that four cases are now being investigated by the police.

Mr Backhouse also disclosed that the GEC intends to employ a team of specialist detectives to look into the areas of electricity stealing so as to put an end to the practice.

He explained that if electricity bills are paid promptly and electricity theft is eliminated, the corporation would be on good footing to break even with its one hundred and thirty-six million dollar budget this year and if possible could make electricity cheaper by some seven per cent.

He pointed out that millions of dollars are owed in light bills and to help recover the money we are cutting off some two hundred persons every day.

The Commercial Manager said "GEC does not like to cut off electricity. It wants to expand its services to consumers but is forced to take this course of action so as to maintain itself."

Mr Backhouse advised that the GEC would not discriminate among its consumers in any area in the country but would operate within the law in providing service to people.

"What is good for one is good for all," the Commercial Manager said, "we cannot please everybody but the majority." (GNA)

CSO: 3298/505

RURAL BIOGAS PROGRAM BASED ON CHINESE MODEL PLANNED

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 25 Mar 83 p 5

[Text]

A programme to promote the use of biogas systems in rural and hinterland locations in Guyana is to be launched shortly under the aegis of the Guyana National Energy Authority (GNEA).

A film depicting utilisation of a Chinese model biogas system, considered most suitable for the Guyana situation, will be shown to various communities. The film as well as the projection equipment, is being provided by the United Nations University.

The GNEA will supply information to persons interested in obtaining biogas digesters as regards construction, cost and operation. The authority will also offer advice on the use of biofertilisers, the residue of the biogas process, GNEA Acting Executive

Chairman Abel Felix said in an interview recently.

The biogas system being promoted is for use on an individual rather than community basis, Cde Felix explained.

In 1980, the Latin American Energy Organisation (OLADE) provided assistance to the Guyana government for the construction of experimental biogas units.

The units, which included the Guatemalan, Mexican and Chinese types, were set up at Alliance and Garden of Eden, on the East Bank Demerara, and Belbaag, Mon Repos and Paradise, on the East Coast Demerara.

The Chinese model has been found to be the type most suited to local conditions. (GNA).

CSO: 3298/505

JAMAICA'S MANLEY ADDRESSES CARIBBEAN LABOR GROUP

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 28 Mar 83 p 2

[Text]

The need for a serious programme of self-reliance among the Third World countries such as the Caribbean with a view to accelerating development was the underlying theme of a lecture by former Jamaican Prime Minister, Michael Manley to trade unionists in Barbados.

Manley, Co-ordinating Adviser to the National Workers' Union (NWU) in Jamaica, spoke to the trade unionists on the theme "Trade Unions and National Development." He analysed what he termed as "the profound development crisis" in the Caribbean and he used Jamaica and Puerto Rico as two examples to show how dependence on the metropole for assistance as well as how metropolitan values and tastes can create problems for the region.

The one-week seminar, which ended last Friday, was sponsored by the Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL) in conjunction with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES). It was attended by some 30 workers from throughout the region and co-ordinated by the FES Representative in Barbados, Arp Kressin.

Manley emphasised the principle of self-reliance in the development of Third World countries. However, he said that economic and other interests of the industrialised countries can impede that

very goal. He suggested that other Third World countries should observe from the experience of Puerto Rico in which there was more foreign capital investment per sq. mi. than any other Caribbean country. In addition, he said that Puerto Rico was a recipient of U.S. Federal services, had a surplus of large numbers of its population in New York and had, at its disposal, access to the biggest consumer market in the world. Yet, he said that Puerto Rico had an unemployment figure of 24 per cent. And, on top of that, he added that Puerto Rico's Government had expressed concern to the U.S. over the withdrawal of food stamps which Puerto Rico needed to survive.

The former Jamaica Prime Minister recounted some of the obstacles with which he had been faced, while in office, and jocularly said that his presence in Barbados was an example to his efforts towards building self-reliance in Jamaica.

Manley recommended a number of possible solutions with a view to making the model of self-reliance work. He said that the Caribbean had a history in which the plantation system, slavery and colonialism had built enduring class relationships between those who own and those who did not. He observed that the Caribbean

could not hope to achieve a spontaneous method of work ethics if it could not change fundamentally the position between the worker and the workplace. He said that in the Caribbean when a worker goes to his job he did so as an inferior, and he has to fight for his wages. He stressed that in the nature of our societies we are trapped between the realities of the worker and the workplace.

He did not believe that anybody could make the society work if there was a political process that did not wish to involve the working class, as a class, in decision-making.

Manley said that the trade unions had succeeded in the provision of basic trade union education, but he wondered whether the movement could develop a form of worker education that changed the perception of the worker as a class in the society in which he lived.

"Can we move to the next stage?

"Can we go to the model that sees the trade unions as a process, as a class process?" he asked.

Turning to the fundamental question of development, Manley looked at the misconception relating to development. He alluded to the presence of high rise buildings in the Third World and said that whereas this may be evidence of

development, it could also be evidence of misdirected development. He said that if the cement and steel that should be used in workers' houses are being used for bureaucratic comfort, then that is squandermania and not development.

Manley criticised those who used the GDP as the final measurement for development. This method, he said, can sometimes be misleading. He added that if a country was growing because it had mineral resources, then the value of the resources may be reflected in the GDP, but it would not tell who is really benefiting.

According to Manley, development is a process that must be understood in its dynamic term. It should be looked at as process to the extent where people have the ability to define, realise and achieve worthwhile goals. He cited the U.S as a magnificent example of a developing society when it had a migrant philosophy and frontier spirit. The work ethic was present in people from the janitor to the manager and people felt it was worthwhile to work.

People had to come to the U.S as migrants, he said, and

had built a country. But he noted that, on the other hand, the bitterness which had resulted from the class antagonisms—the results of slavery and colonialism—had militated against the same thing happening in the Caribbean. He also showed how Caribbean people had migrated to the U.S and were so motivated to work around the clock.

Manley said a way must be found through the political process in the Caribbean to encourage the workers to have a commitment to work because of a belief in the results of work.

Manley then drew up a list of symptoms which he said, showed when the development process had begun. They are:

- 1) Is a country able to develop a political strategy based on the concept of self-reliance?
- 2) Has the society started to develop a work ethic?
- 3) Is the society capable of being able to be mobilised?
- 4) Are growth and equity running in automatic relation to each other?
- 5) When people see the much talked about word, democracy.

CSO: 3298/506

BRIEFS

CDB BANANA AID--Castries, St. Lucia, Saturday, (CANA)--The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) is to provide the banana associations in St. Lucia and the other three Windward Islands with \$8.4 million for the purchase of agricultural inputs, it has been officially announced here. The funds provided under the regional input supply scheme will also be used for structural improvement to storage facilities. All banana producing areas of Dominica, St. Vincent, Grenada, and St. Lucia are being serviced under the scheme. It will cater for an estimated 30,000 acres of bananas in the first year, now cultivated by some 19,000 banana growers under various levels of management in the Windward Islands. It is also expected that with proper price incentives to the growers and good weather, this project will assist in increasing production to an estimated 159,000 tons by 1988. The funds will be provided to individual banana growers associations through their respective island governments.

[Text] [Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 27 Mar 83 p 8]

STUDENT ORGANIZATION FAILURE--The recent attempt by the University of Guyana Student Society along with other tertiary student organisations in the region to form a Caribbean Student Movement ran into difficulties before it was finished when the representatives of Grenada, Suriname and St. Lucia walked out of the deliberations. In a statement issued in Georgetown, the three movements explained that the "general atmosphere which then existed...was not conducive to reasoned and sensible deliberations and were inimical to the success of any organisation." The organisations expressed their commitment to Caribbean student unity and to continue to strive for an effective mechanism to achieve this. Those that remained were the UWI Guilds of Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad and UGSS. The opening of the meeting took place at UG campus and was picketed by the Progressive Youth Organisation. Guards swooped down on the protestors and tore up the placards. The PYO said the UGSS has no moral right to host the meeting due to lack of support and absence of democracy under the present student body of UG. [Text] [Georgetown MIRROR in English 6 Mar 83 p 4]

CSO: 3298/506

BRIEFS

UK AID FOR AIRPORT--The Ministry of Communications Works & Public Utilities is pleased to announce that aid funds totalling some ninety four thousand five hundred (94,500) have been approved by the Government of the United Kingdom for the extension of the Beef Island Airport Terminal Building. The project, which is expected to be completed by late March 1983, will provide an additional fourteen hundred (1,400) Sq. Ft. of enclosed space for arriving and departing passengers, a two hundred and fifty six Sq. Ft. bonded baggage store together with a canopy above the baggage handling areas. The work is being undertaken by Mr. Leonard Thomas of East End and supervised by the Public Works Department. It should be noted that the project is being conducted in accordance with the phase development programme for the Airport, as recommended by the Civil Aviation Authority U.K. and approved by the Government of the British Virgin Islands in 1979. [St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 16 Mar 83 p 5]

CSO: 3298/487

UNION REACTION TO GOVERNMENT STAND MAY BRING MORE STRIKES

Spread of Union Opposition

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 27 Mar 83 p 40

[Text] Sanitation, air traffic control and school meal workers are expected to join striking Barbadian workers tomorrow.

In announcing this latest development, a senior official of the National Union of Public workers said last night that with Government declaring "a firm stand on the matter" the union was now prepared to "go all out" to win the present fight.

The six-day industrial action by the nurses has seen staff numbers at the Psychiatric, Geriatric and district hospitals not only being cut by more than half, but ancillary workers and over 100 nurses of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) coming out in support.

Furthermore, it was announced at yesterday's NUPW conference that moral, and if necessary, physical support would be received from the island's other leading trade unions.

It is reported that the Barbados Union of Teachers, (BUT) and Barbados Industrial and General Worker's Union, (BIGWU) the Guyana Public Service Union and the Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL) had expressed support.

General Secretary of the Barbados Workers Union, Frank Walcott, said yesterday that the union's stance had already been expressed through the CCL.

The strike to date has been incident free, all to one incident in which a nurse was reportedly struck by a car.

Officials of the NUPW have already had formal talks with workers at the QEH, the airport and the judiciary and indications are that these "support seeking" meetings will be extended throughout the civil service.

Meanwhile, the nurses now taking industrial action in reply to Government measures to introduce a new working schedule, will be "on the road" again

tomorrow according to general secretary of the NUPW, Joe Goddard, at the end of the 39th Annual Conference of the Union yesterday.

At a press conference, Goddard expressed "great satisfaction at the 'response made by nurses, after the administration had introduced a five-night rota for nurses at hospitals throughout Barbados.

Yesterday's Conference was extremely well-attended, with delegates appearing in buoyant spirits, despite the obvious strain of talks, and strike action.

Role of Hospital Nurses

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 27 Mar 83 p 40

[Text] The Ministry of Health yesterday denied press reports on Friday, that Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) nurses had joined the nursing staff of other hospitals in the strike called by the National Union of Public Workers.

A spokesman for the ministry said the nurses not at work on Friday had given reasons for their absence, and there was a full complement of nursing staff on duty on Friday night and yesterday.

Paper's Analysis of Tensions

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 25 Mar 83 p 4

[Text] The decision of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security to circulate a Government White Paper on industrial relations could lead to greater harmony in the Barbadian society.

Barbados has been able to make steady social and economic progress mainly because of a stable political climate conditioned by responsible trade unionism. The emergence of socialist oriented political parties which have guided this country's affairs through the transitional period of the West Indies Federation and into the deeper international waters of independence, was rooted in the struggles of the major union which championed the cause of the working man.

Enlightened unionism has greatly improved the lot of the working majority in Barbados not only in terms of money, but also in the areas of working conditions.

Many social benefits legislated by successive governments over the years have been as a result of trade union advice, suasion or pressure. Safety legislation, holidays with pay, National Insurance, unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, maternity leave, severance payments, have all been implemented after agitation on the part of trade unions.

It is also true that the trade union movement has been used by some people as the vehicle to transport them towards the realisation of their political

ambitions; but the record of trade unions in Barbados has been outstanding, and the society owes unionism a great deal.

But there have been undesirable strains from time to time. Some employers have actively resisted unionisation of their operations even to the point of intimidating employees who want to join a trade union. Some have been guilty of breaching legislated conditions for workers' health and safety, and some have flouted the minimum wages legislation, knowing that some workers will not complain because of the pressures of unemployment in this developing nation.

There has also been mounting tension because of protracted stormy wages negotiations between employers and employees' representatives. The present economic climate has resulted in calls for restraint in wages demands, but unionists have retorted that they consider it unfair that the workers at the bottom of the economic scale should seem to be the ones selected to bear the squeeze of restraint.

With irrefutable logic the argument has been propounded that if "things are tight" for the higher echelon earners and proprietors, they must be even "tighter" for those at the bottom.

Within recent times too, there have been imposed settlements in wages agreements involving the government as employer. Considerable acrimony has been generated and the dissatisfaction has been widespread. Conditioning the bitterness must be the conspicuous consumption patterns adopted by many political figures as well as some other employers in the private sector.

The anticipated White Paper might help to solve some of the problems now affecting industrial relations in Barbados. But the government must be sensitive enough to listen and pay heed to the advice and inputs it will invite from the people and organisations among whom it circulates the draft. There can only be further frustration and increased bitterness if comments and advice are sought and then ignored on something as important, as a White Paper on industrial relations.

In order to achieve the sort of industrial thrust that Barbados needs to pull out of the present doldrums, all sectors concerned must see that each needs the other and that each has an important and interlocking function. Any proposed legislative changes should reflect that level of national thinking.

CSO: 3298/507

WORLD PRICE TRENDS RESULT IN \$35-MILLION SUGAR LOSS

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 27 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] Barbados stands to lose in excess of \$35 million on this year's sugar crop because of present sugar price trends on the world market. This was revealed last Friday by director of Barbados Sugar Producers Association (BSPA), Neville Osborne.

Osborne was responding to SUNDAY SUN investigations which revealed that Barbados could lose as much as \$40 on every tonne of sugar produced in the 1983 harvest.

Osborne said that any information or figures given at this stage of the harvest would only be estimations, but added that it was costing over \$1 100 to produce every tonne of sugar.

In contrast to this, Osborne pointed out that the average selling price for sugar on the world market was \$800 and as a result, the country was already producing at a loss.

He said: "We have to wait and see to find out what exactly we will get in the end of our sugar, as the price would only be set when we are ready to sell."

He added that even the recent reduction in the price of oil on the world market did not bring even a ray of hope for the local sugar industry, as all electricity at the factories was generated by the burning of bagasse.

Another official in the sugar industry told the SUNDAY SUN that the industry was still very precarious, as no manufacturer ever stayed in business long while producing at a price which was higher than the actual selling price.

He said: "When one aspect of the industry begins to look up, another is on the downturn. We are all very happy at the dramatic reduction in the number of cane fires, and if this continues, the quantity of sugar produced in 1984-85 should be very high.

"Let me warn you, however, that it is going to take a miracle to bring about an increase in the price with the huge glut that now exists," he added. He concluded: "The sugar industry is one in which we have very little say in how it develops. It is the only industry that I can think of where the manufacturer has to take what every price is offered him by the buyer."

MOLOTOV COCKTAILS THROWN IN PUBLIC ATTACK ON POLICE

Fracas in Court Street

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 29 Mar 83 pp 1, 3

[Text]

Two Police officers were hurt and an unmarked Police car was destroyed by a Molotov cocktail during a fracas that erupted in Court Street early yesterday.

Police were again called in force to the Middletown, Pembroke area yesterday afternoon when the call for assistance went out from Police officers making an arrest in the area.

"After last night everyone is on their toes," said a Police spokesman, adding that the two disturbances were not related and that the second was settled quickly.

One arrest has been made as a result of the fracas, and Deputy Police Commissioner Clive Donald said that more would probably follow.

The incident began shortly before 3 a.m. when two Police officers attempted to arrest a man at the Spinning Wheel disco on Court Street.

A crowd soon gathered, and youths began throwing Molotov cocktails, rocks and bottles at the Police officers. Reinforcements totalling 27 men and senior officers were called to assist, but it took nearly two hours to bring the disturbance involving as many as 150 people under control.

"Other units attending were subjected to rocks, bottles and other missiles," said a Police spokesman. "One unoccupied car was set ablaze by a Molotov cocktail and subsequently destroyed."

A Hamilton Fire Brigade truck called to put out the fire had missiles thrown at it. A spokesman for the brigade said yesterday that none of the six men on the truck was injured.

Police Constable Kevin Christopher was treated at King Edward VII Memorial Hospital for a wound to the back of his head. He was also treated for an injured arm and a severely swollen wrist.

Police Constable Richard Basden received five stitches on his face. Both officers were treated and then released from hospital.

Mr. Donald said that the incident took place on the steps leading into the Spinning Wheel disco after the man Police attempted to arrest resisted violently.

"The man reacted violently and others joined in to assist him," said Mr. Donald. "Bottles, Molotov

cocktails, and rocks were thrown, and an unmarked Police car window was shattered and a Molotov thrown inside."

The Mazda Police car valued at nearly \$8,000 was a write-off, said Mr. Donald, and was towed to the Police depot in Prospect.

Mr. Donald described the disturbance as a "spontaneous fracas" involving as many as 100 people. A Police spokesman said one eyewitness estimated the number of civilians taking part at 150.

Police were later called into the Middletown, Pembroke area at 3.15 p.m. yesterday to assist Police officers making an arrest.

"It had nothing to do with last night," said a Police spokesman. "A man was arrested in the Middletown area for alleged breaking and entering."

The spokesman added that in sensitive areas such as Middletown a number of Police vehicles would respond to a call for assistance.

Police Chief's Response

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 31 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

Police Commissioner Frederick Bean had a tough message yesterday for those who believed there were any "no-go" areas in Bermuda.

His words followed a violent disturbance in the early hours of Monday in the Court Street area in which two Police officers were hurt and a Police car destroyed.

Commissioner Bean said: "I wish to state quite categorically that there will never be any such areas where Police or members of the public cannot traverse at will."

The Police chief said that certain sections of the community and the media were of "the mistaken impression

that several areas were "no-go".

He also pointed out that another disturbance which occurred on Monday afternoon in the Middletown, Pembroke, area, had nothing to do with the earlier clash near the Spinning Wheel Discotheque. But he used both instances to illustrate his warning about no-go areas.

Monday afternoon's incident involved a man who was out of prison on licence.

Commissioner Bean said Police were asked to enforce a recall order and that was why he was picked up. Other Police officers were called to assist the arrest.

The Police chief said that the incident was not drug-related.

The afternoon arrest was over shortly but as many as 150 people were involved in the fracas during the early hours of Monday morning.

The incident occurred shortly before 3 a.m. when a Police officer attempted to arrest a man at the Spinning Wheel disco.

A crowd gathered and youths began throwing Molotov cocktails, rocks and bottles at Police.

Reinforcements arrived, totalling 27 men and senior officers, but it took almost two hours to bring the disturbance under control.

During the clash, an \$8,000 Police car was burned out by a Molotov cocktail.

Two policemen were treated in hospital for injuries sustained during the fracas.

Yesterday, Commissioner Bean said arrests had been made in connection with both the morning and afternoon incidents and several court appearances were expected soon.

Threat of More Clashes

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 2 Apr 83 pp 1, 2

[Text]

Violent clashes will continue in the back-of-town unless Government moves to curb Police harassment and victimisation, a spokesman for the area's "committee of concerned organisations" has warned.

Disturbances in Court Street and Middletown last week resulted from frustration at the failure of Government and Police to react to complaints, said the spokesman, known as "Faith".

"The Police are conducting their duty in a savage way," he said. "People are

reaching the point where they could have violent thoughts in their heads because of the harassment.

"They are reaching that point not because they want to, but because of the circumstances. It seems to me that they are straining themselves to hold back."

Faith, who is employed by the Public Works Department, was one of the men involved in the committee's hush-hush meeting in January with the Premier, the Commissioner of Police and Senator Robert Barritt.

The committee was made up of a few men from different areas of Bermuda —

especially Jones Village, Warwick, the area by St. Monica's Mission known as 42nd Street and Court Street.

"We want to know why it has taken so long for the Premier, or the Commissioner or Mr. Barritt, to make some comment on this.

"They are making out as though the meeting never really happened. I think they should present to the media and the public exactly what happened at that meeting.

"They should make some type of comment on what they are going to do about

the situation so that the people have some kind of hope.

"It would be nice, just for once, to hear a statement that was sympathetic to our problems."

Faith said that it was known and understood that the Police had to make arrests.

"We accept that people have to be arrested, but they must know who are their suspects.

"They are going out and picking up 12 people in the hope that one of them will be the suspect. The other 11 must just accept the Police apologies when they say 'Sorry, you're not the right man.'

The committee was alarmed, too, at what it believed were an increasing number of incidents of Police stopping and searching men and then charging them, not with the offence originally suspected but with use of offensive words or resisting arrest.

Police acted as though a person could be treated as a suspect simply because he was seen in a certain area, he said.

The committee also believed that tensions were exacerbated by unusually high unemployment this winter

and by continuing housing problems.

Faith said that there had been several meetings of "concerned citizens" since the election — some had involved more than 60 people.

Moves to arrange further meetings with the Premier and the Commissioner of Police had been greeted with "deaf ears".

"We want to present our problems logically so that they can be looked at and considered.

"Maybe if our problems are not looked at we will continue to see spontaneous reactions."

The warning followed some tough words by the Police Commissioner Frederick Bean on Wednesday that Police would not tolerate any "no go" areas.

The Commissioner's message came after the disturbances on Monday. One was in Court Street in the early hours of Monday when two Police officers were hurt and one Police car destroyed by fire in a fracas involving a crowd of youths hurling bottles, rocks and Molotov cocktails.

The Middletown incident on Monday afternoon involved a man who was out of prison on licence. The incident was short-lived.

ESO: 3298/508

PLP CHAIRMAN SCOTT INTERVIEWED ON PARTY'S FUTURE COURSE

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 29 Mar 83 p 15

[Text] Before this year's General Election, the Progressive Labour Party appeared to be steadily gaining supporters and developing into an Opposition force to be reckoned with.

But the party suddenly found itself back in the doldrums after the election results came in.

It had weakened the United Bermuda Party's stronghold in the 1980 election when it won 18 seats, decreasing the Government's majority in the House of Assembly to four.

After the February 3 election this year, the PLP is with just 14 seats in Parliament while the UBP holds a comfortable 26. The party has laid a large share of the blame for their setback on the reduced number of people registered to vote in this most recent election.

This week Living interviewed the PLP's chairman Mr. Alex Scott. We asked him about Bermuda's political climate today and the direction the PLP will take to strengthen its position.

The Progressive Labour Party has always said that Bermuda's black population has never had much representation in Government. And while they still maintain this belief, Mr. Scott said: "The irony of the situation today is that Bermuda's white community has the least amount of representation."

After pausing for a moment, Mr. Scott explained: "The battle today between the UBP and the PLP is for the black vote. Blacks can support the PLP and nothing is said and it is no surprise to anyone. Blacks can also support the UBP today and no one

says anything. But if a white person supports or even hints that they will support the PLP they automatically become ostracised.

"If a white person in Bermuda does vote for the PLP they, on the whole, dare not tell anyone. A white person in Bermuda is expected to show up for the polls early and sign on the dotted line. The UBP do not go out and actively campaign for the white vote. They simply say you should support us."

It is what Mr. Scott describes as the "Bermuda dilemma". He said: "Although we call ourselves a free democracy there is something wrong when things like that can happen. And we at the Progressive Labour Party take some responsibility for this. We have not campaigned enough for the white vote — particularly the young white vote."

He was saddened to see the UBP automatically assuming that young whites would vote UBP because of the very fact that they were white and the PLP automatically assuming that young whites will not vote for the PLP — again for racial reasons. "The PLP accepts some of the blame for this and we are going to go through a serious period of reconstruction," said Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott criticised politicians on both sides who during the pre-election campaign tended to bypass houses where they believed they had no supporters. "No one should be insulted like that," said Mr. Scott.

"I know that as far as the PLP goes we are going to have some dramatic changes taking place. We have always been, and will always be a grass roots party. While the UBP represents the employer we represent the employee. And we are now going to go to the

community — the broad community. We will be organising at the neighbourhood level. We will have people put in charge of each neighbourhood and they in turn will report to the branch. We want both blacks and whites to have direct contact with the party, and not just before an election but year round."

The party's youth wing will also be strengthened said Mr. Scott. "We are getting more experienced people in our youth wing and we are getting some whites — not enough but we will be working on that. Our membership in general has more whites in it now but I want to see more."

Dealing with the decreased number of registered voters for the 1983 election and of the PLP's outcry, Mr. Scott said: "It is not sour grapes - I can assure you that. When we had the election in 1980 it was a new format. We said that since it is the first time the method has been used we will not complain but rather use the 1980 number of registered voters as a benchmark. We obviously assumed that the number would go up and it should have, but it fell off. If the Parliamentary Register keeps falling off like it seems to have done then the Government will be representing fewer and fewer people. And that is ridiculous!"

Mr. Scott said they were taking the issue of the downturn in the number

of registered voters to the court and "if necessary to the Privy Council". He said: "The point of making sure everyone was registered must be brought home in court."

Mr. Scott, 42, who runs Scott Crafts advertising agency and who is a graduate in fine arts from Temple University in Philadelphia, was the only nominee for the post of PLP chairman last November.

He said it was because of the PLP's gain in seats in 1980 which, directly or indirectly, led to Mr. Swan being elected Premier. "The UBP started to try and match the PLP's social stands. From the public relations point of view, the UBP made a tremendous effort in the last election.

But Mr. Scott said that the UBP still remained the "merchant party". "I am not saying whether that is good or bad but it is a fact."

The UBP has maintained that the Opposition is not capable of running the country. Mr. Scott countered: "Look at them. They have taken a number of PLP people. That must say something.

"We have one more political hurdle to get over and that is to get into power. And when we are put into power we will represent a much broader portion of the community than the UBP does."

CSO: 3298/508

COMMENTATOR HITS PLP INTERNAL DISSENSION, DEFENDS LEADER

Hamilton THE WORKERS VOICE in English 18 Mar 83 pp 4, 6

[Article by D. E. Lightbourn]

[Text]

It is becoming increasingly apparent that there are those within the Progressive Labour Party who have been, and still are, actively engaged in trying to remove Mrs. Lois Browne-Evans from leadership of the Party.

There can be no doubt too, that mutterings and covert condemnation and criticism of our leader contributed, in no small measure to the defeat suffered by the PLP in the General Election on February 3 this year. (It was no coincidence that the United Bermuda Party stated that that election would be mainly on the issue of leadership).

By an insidious campaign, started after the 1980 General Election, certain "loyal" PLP members have sought to do a 'hatchet job' on Lois Browne-Evans. Yet, when one asks whom these concerned PLP members intend to put in her place, one is met with a resounding silence. And that is the whole crux of the situation.

For Lois Browne-Evans has the support of the majority of the grass roots members of the PLP. Their loyalty springs from their observation of her consistent and never weakening fight over the years, to strengthen the PLP and to make it a viable alternative government for Bermuda. (This, in itself, demonstrates amazing guts and strength of character. For I believe there are few, if any, Bermudians in this Island who would have put up with the insults and smears from UBP supporters through the years and, even more heartbreaking, the criticisms and lack of active support from so many of the persons in whose interests she was fighting).

SELFISH OPPORTUNISTS

Also, to an observer of the political scene over the years, it is very apparent that, when the PLP was struggling along in Opposition, with only 10 members in the House of Assembly, no one showed the slightest interest in taking over the leadership of the Party. Then, suddenly, when, in the 1980 election, it looked as if the PLP might actually take over the Government of the country, a number of johnny-come-latelies started the smear campaign against the leader, Lois Browne-Evans.

It is no secret that there are many opportunists in this Island who do nothing, until they see a chance of jumping on the most popular band wagon. Who will not commit themselves until they feel fairly certain that there is "something in it" for them. (There are even those who are 'waiting in the wings' overseas, until the "time is right" for them to return and grab for a share of the goodies).

I say, let them join the Party for opportunists, the UBP. For, if those people remain in the PLP and the PLP takes over the government, we shall have changed one bunch of opportunists for another - albeit of a different colour.

Personally, I am tired of hearing black Bermudians perpetually criticising the leaders of the predominantly black Party, while, at the same time, meekly accepting disgustingly low standards of performance from the UBP government, both individually and collectively.

I am tired of seeing the greater majority of the population being bamboozled and coaxed, time after time, with empty promises and flashy publicity gimmicks (all directed by foreign advisers).

NOWHERE TO GO

If we are ever going to honestly and truthfully face the facts of life which exist in this Island today, we must accept and admit that:

a) the native black Bermudian comprises the majority of those in the lowest income brackets in Bermuda.

b) even where black Bermudians have been given high-sounding titles and positions, it is evident that they have no real authority.

c) only the black Bermudians in Bermuda have nowhere else to go. Those with status or even first and second generation born white Bermudians can always return to their countries of origin, if life became rough here. Even the rich white Bermudians could always find asylum in some other country, which would welcome them (with their money).

But the majority of the working class black Bermudians have NOWHERE else to go. Therefore it must be obvious that, for these people, the quality of life in Bermuda now and in the future, must be of primary importance.

Lois Browne-Evans has always been a woman of the people. Her knowledge and experience in the political arena are invaluable, and far greater than that of any other politician in either Party. She is, and always has been a patriot and champion of her people and her island home. And has never ceased to fight for the rights, not only of members of her own sex, but of all Bermudians, whose lives and future are closely linked with the future of this country. She and they must sink or swim with Bermuda of the future.

WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE....

Finally, I would suggest that those "concerned" and "loyal" PLP members who are presently channelling their energies into changing the leadership, would do better if they directed those energies toward rendering better service to the working class people of this community, who have put them where they are. And that they work, loyally and tirelessly, WITH the leadership to ensure that the PLP may finally cease being "an effective Opposition" and becomes the government of Bermuda.

If those who are working in our midst against our interests, are allowed to continue their disruptive activities, and if we allow them to do this, I believe there will come a day when the children of today will face their parents and demand, "You knew what was happening. What did YOU do to stop it?"

BRIEFS

RISE IN TOURISM--Tourist figures for the first two months of 1983 show a heartening leap of almost 28 percent on the same period last year. The total number of visitors to Bermuda, including 502 cruise passengers, in January and February, was 29,876, compared to 23,457 last year. February's figures for visitors arriving by air are up 27.6 percent on the corresponding month last year. The Island appears to be reestablishing its position as a favorite spot for American visitors. United States arrivals by air this February jumped by 34.2 percent--from 12,566 in 1982 to 16,883. Canadian visitors increased slightly but UK visitors for February are down from 722 last year to 469, and down by 19.3 percent compared to the first two months of last year. European visitors show a healthy 14.8 percent rise-on February last year. Hotel occupancies for February surpassed the same period last year. There was an average occupancy of 35.8 percent--6.6 percent higher than last February. Projected occupancy for the next two months is, however, slightly down on last year--53.5 percent for April compared to 59.3 percent, and 59 percent in May compared to 69.8 percent last year. [Text] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 25 Mar 83 p 1]

CSO: 3298/508

PRO-CUT ISSUES MANIFESTO, SPONSORS RALLIES AGAINST WAGE DECREE-LAW

Manifesto, Petition

Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Mar 83 p 5

[Text] Brasilia--The Pro-CUT (Single Workers Federation) National Committee yesterday forwarded a petition with over 500,000 signatures to Planalto Palace, demanding that the government reply to the document which came out of the National Working Class Conference (CONCIAT), held in 1981, calling for measures to prevent unemployment and poverty.

The petition was drafted after the government ignored a request made by Pro-CUT on 9 March for a meeting with President Figueiredo, to discuss problems confronting the working class. When the Planalto Palace did not respond to the request, 13 members of the Pro-CUT Committee--union representatives from various points in the country--formally delivered the petition yesterday.

As the petition was being forwarded to the chief of state for his consideration, a manifesto from the workers was sent to the government, declaring that the CONCIAT demands had been ignored; "nothing has been done to prevent unemployment and want, and the privileges of the minority have continued to be protected, while the suffering of most of the people has worsened terribly," according to the text.

"In the forefront of the crisis provoked by the government and the bosses, we have a regime demoralized by corruption--a new and veritable sea of mud, with the surface crusted over. In denouncing the scandals of the Delfin Account, CAPEMI and the mysterious circumstances surrounding the death of journalist Alexandre von Baumgarten, with the SNI (National Intelligence Service) involved, the press has clearly revealed that public funds have been used on behalf of very private interests. Painful as it is, the truth is that the people do not trust the government," the manifesto adds.

"Today, on the national day of struggle against the [wage] squeeze, the Brazilian workers publicly pledge resistance," the manifesto states further, warning that "with the prospect of having things go on as they are, and in the certainty of intensifying the struggle, the workers have no other alternative but to unleash a general strike throughout the country."



3,000 Demonstrate in Se Square

The National Day of Struggle Against the Wage Squeeze was marked yesterday in Sao Paulo with a rally of about 3,000 demonstrators in the Praça da Se, in a public act in which--for the first time since 1974--the red banners of the Communist Party waved peacefully, side by side with the flags and banners of the Workers Party, which are already a customary sight in the square.

The rally was promoted by the Pro-CUT Union Committee to point up the unity of Sao Paulo's unions in the struggle against Decree-Law 2,012 (which altered the system of wage readjustments, excluding the additional 10 percent for the lowest wage brackets), in defense of an unemployment policy, in disapproval of the government's agreements with the IMF and in preparation for the convening of the State Congress of the Working Classes.

However, the poor attendance by union leaders was lamented by the Pro-CUT Committee members themselves. One of them, Raimundo Rosa de Lima, president of the Bakers Union, said that, of the 200 bodies which had made commitments regarding the organization of the congress, only 50 had sent representatives to the rally.

Another Pro-CUT Committee member, Valdemar Rossi, leader of the opposition in the Sao Paulo Metalworkers Union, also lamented the federations' failure to unite. He argued that this lack of unity is not the result of political party alignments, although the partisan presence was evident in the banners carried by the demonstrators.

The rally began at 1830 hours, with the presentation of the Chilean musical group "Esperanca Latina," which sang a number of protest songs banned in its own country. The part of the square facing the cathedral steps was already filled with about 2,000 people when a parade of delegations from the PT [Workers Party] district directorates of almost every district in the city arrived. Following the speeches, the demonstrators left the square and marched through the streets of the city center.

Protest Against Wage Decree

Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Mar 83 p 5

[Text] Under the eye of three Military Police patrols, as well as DETRAN [Traffic Department] vehicles, about 500 people gathered yesterday in the Praça do Povo in Brasilia to protest the decree-law altering the wage policy, as part of the demonstrations on the "National Day of Struggle Against the Wage Squeeze."

The fine rain that fell on the business section of the capital kept the rally small, but did not daunt the workers association and union representatives or the PT and PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] members of parliament, who spoke against the decree, demanding better wages and denouncing the law banning the right to strike.

In their speeches, both Deputy Djalma Bom (PT-Sao Paulo) and Aurelio Peres (PMDB-Sao Paulo) asserted that the decree-law altering the wage law would have difficulty passing in the Chamber of Deputies. Djalma Bom added that there is dissatisfaction with the bill even within the PDS [Social Democratic Party].

At the end of the rally, union representatives read the document which the Pro-CUT Committee would later send to President Figueiredo, along with a petition bearing over 500,000 signatures.

In Rio Grande do Sul

In Porto Alegre, about 300 people, including union leaders and workers, also took part in a protest march yesterday morning. The march ended at the Piratini Palace, where Governor Jair Soares (PDS) met with the workers, who were led by Paulo Renato Paim, president of the Canoas Metalworkers Union and a member of the Intersindical Committee.

At that meeting, the union leader asked the governor to intervene personally with the federal government to withdraw the decree. He also noted that the "labor class has already sacrificed enough for the growth of the country." According to Renato Paim: "Decree-Law 2,012 is leading Brazil into a climate of social upheaval."

In Sergipe

About 300 people held a public demonstration at the Sergipe Institute of History and Geography, in Aracaju, promoted by eight labor class organizations in the state to commemorate the "National Day of Struggle Against the Wage Squeeze."

FIGUEIREDO'S SUCCESSION CHOICES NARROW TO CAVALCANTI, CHAVES

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 11 Mar 83 p 2

[Text] Brasilia--President Joao Figueiredo should choose between Vice President Aureliano Chaves and Gen Costa Cavalcanti, president of Itaipu Binacional, as the candidate he will indicate to the PDS [Social Democratic Party] to succeed him in 1985. The information came yesterday from two members of the PDS national leadership, a minister of state and a former aide of then President Ernesto Geisel. The four sources agree that Aureliano Chaves has the better chance.

The sources assure that Minister Mario Andreazza and Governor Antonio Carlos Magalhaes are already removed from the initial list of five names which Figueiredo proposed to former President Geisel in Porto Alegre on 4 February. Senator Marco Antonio Maciel, also included on the list, could be named as vice president on the ticket headed by Aureliano, according to the sources.

"I Am Not Paying Attention"

"Listen, I don't want to know anything more about this. Whatever name the president chooses is good, and if it is not mine, I will fully support his choice. I am not going to worry about this," Minister Mario Andreazza said yesterday morning.

"If President Geisel carries enough weight in the succession process, you are knocked out, no?" asked his questioner, a northeastern PDS deputy.

"So I am knocked out. I am not paying much attention to this. I don't care to know about it," the minister retorted.

The dialogue, which took place in one of the offices of the Interior Ministry, was related by the deputy to JORNAL DO BRASIL. Later in the afternoon, a member of the PDS national leadership confided that Figueiredo included Andreazza among the five names that he presented to Geisel precisely because the president knew his predecessor would veto it.

This way, the source inferred, it would be more difficult for the former president to veto any other of the five names. At least since the middle of 1982, Geisel has been set on the candidacy of Vice President Aureliano Chaves; this was admitted by five sources, including PDS parliament members, Planalto Palace advisors and aides of the former president himself.

Nonetheless, Figueiredo is also considering the name of Costa Cavalcanti, guaranteed a minister of state and two of the PDS sources. They say the president of Itaipu Binacional has the open support of circles connected with former President Garrastazu Medici, but does not have backing in the PDS.

(In Salvador, Governor Antonio Carlos Magalhaes declared yesterday, without going into whether his name is still on the list of presidential possibilities, that "the northeast will be given consideration in the presidential succession." He did not wish to discuss it further, alleging that "President Figueiredo has not yet opened up the succession process."

When the reporters insisted on knowing if he really considered himself a presidential possibility, Antonio Carlos replied: "There is nothing concrete." The Bahian governor made a point of denying that he had received any information about the meeting between Figueiredo and Geisel. He said: "I have spoken with President Ernesto Geisel and he never said a single word about any meeting with Figueiredo to talk over the succession.")

Military Report

On 8 February, 4 days after Geisel met with Figueiredo in Porto Alegre, Minister Walter Pires met with the chief of general staff and the four commanders of the Army, in Brasilia. On the agenda, according to an official in the Army Ministry, were the relationship between the commanders and the opposition governors-elect and the presidential succession.

At the end of this meeting, the official said, a report was written up regarding the discussions and their results. The minister himself, dressed in civilian clothes, delivered it to President Figueiredo at the Palace of the Dawn. According to the same source, the report concluded that the army would not oppose any of the five names on the list presented by Figueiredo to Geisel.

Last Friday, at the president's invitation, ministers Walter Pires, Maximiano da Fonseca and Delio Jardim de Mattos dined at the Granja do Torto. After dinner, the four were chatting in the garden when the president (according to the army officer) declared emphatically that, although he did not have a candidate yet, it certainly would not be Paulo Maluf.

It might be Aureliano. Two of Figueiredo's aides admitted that the president had spent anxious weeks from December to the end of January, while his vice president was being treated in a Belo Horizonte hospital for a duodenal ulcer that had robbed him of about 20 kilograms. Even today, according to these aides, the president telephones every day to Aureliano at his home in Minas Gerais, where he is making a good recovery.

On Figueiredo's orders, a medical team examined Aureliano Chaves at length on 25 January in Belo Horizonte. The team's report, delivered to the president a week later, was forwarded to Minister Walter Pires, who immediately reported the findings to the country's major military leaders, one of them reported 30 days ago.

The findings left no doubt; Aureliano had begun to recover and should be in full health by the beginning of April. The medical report enabled Figueiredo to keep Aureliano on his reduced list of possible successors, a Planalto Palace source reported. After that, Aurelio's name was clearly in the forefront in discussions regarding the presidential succession, both in the Congress and in ministerial offices, noted a PDS source who moves in both these areas.

In January, when Deputy Flavio Marcilio was campaigning for the presidency of the Chamber, he had an audience with Figueiredo, and afterward he confided to a friend in parliament that the president of the republic had assured him that he would hear out the country's political leaders--government or opposition, parliament members or not--before indicating a name to his party. Even so, Marcilio admitted at the time, he left the meeting with the impression that Chaves was the president's preference.

Figueiredo's intention to consult with the politicians was confirmed by Deputy Nelson Marchezan, leader of the PDS in the Chamber, to two other PDS parliament members. Last Wednesday, Deputy Italo Conti (PDS-Parana), Delio Jardim de Mattos, reserve general and classmate of Figueiredo, and Costa Cavalcanti assured personal friends--according to two of these friends--that the official candidate for Figueiredo's successor would be a civilian, possibly Aureliano Chaves.

Conti, who was gliding discreetly through the corridors of Congress yesterday, admitted that Figueiredo could settle on Aureliano, but the official announcement would have to wait a few months to prevent the drain (natural) on his government. For his part, Figueiredo again insisted that, in addition to not yet having a candidate for his successor, he does not intend to deal with the problem so soon.

"The president said there is absolutely no foundation to the report that appeared today in the JORNAL DO BRASIL," presidential spokesman Carlos Atila assured yesterday afternoon. He confirmed that Figueiredo and Geisel had conferred in Porto Alegre, alone, "for over an hour," but that they had not discussed the presidential succession.

Figueiredo and Geisel talked about the presidential succession on 25 February, a Friday, in Rio de Janeiro, according to two sources close to the former president. On the following day, former Minister Golbery do Couto e Silva, who was in Rio, went up to the mountains and had a long conversation with Geisel at his home in Teresopolis. Since then, Golbery has doubled his meetings with PDS congressmen. Yesterday, for example, he met for 2 hours with Aloisio Chaves, leader of the party in the Senate.

6362

CSO: 3342/99

MALUF'S PERCEPTIONS OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY VIEWED

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 11 Mar 83 p 6

[Report on interview with presidential candidate Paulo Maluf by Carlos Chagas; date and place not specified]

[Text] For months we have been repeating that the government's political immobility is the greatest contributing factor to the danger that President Joao Figueiredo will lose control of the succession process, with the result that Paulo Maluf's candidacy will prevail within the PDS [Social Democratic Party] because of his unceasing efforts to entice support. The reason is that although saying repeatedly that he is bowing to the president's instructions not to set off the succession process, he is already campaigning and is much better prepared for the PDS National Convention than his possible competitors. He has moved his headquarters to Brasilia, where he conducts business every day in a building with four floors--two above and two below the street level. There, and not in the Chamber of Deputies, is where he receives and will receive even more congressmen and politicians from his own party and the opposition parties. He has about 20 visible employees as well as behind-the-scenes employees whose number no one knows. He has a lot of money and even a private plane for criss-crossing the country. Every month he receives a full report on his press coverage, including every column inch from all the newspapers that have published news about him, whether good, bad, or indifferent.

It may seem to be an absurdity, and certainly it will be a disaster, but if some far-reaching and important step is not taken soon by Planalto Palace--such as the start of the succession process or at least an announcement of the president of the republic's preference so that his favorite can go to work--the nation will find itself faced with an accomplished fact: the former governor will have sewn up most of the votes at the PDS convention, where each delegate will vote secretly, and his name will be put before the electoral college as the government candidate. To stop him at that point--if it wants to--the government will have to support an opposition candidate and instruct its bloc to vote for the latter, or at least not to show up. Failing that, it will have to restore direct elections.

This is not a joke or speculation. Realities are what lead to these predictions, which until yesterday were based on circumstantial evidence but which are now being presented on the basis of facts. Or rather, on one fact, which is the

interview being reported on here. That interview was granted to O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO and the JORNAL DA TARDE by Paulo Maluf, and it leaves no room for doubt.

He confirmed that in keeping with the process of political relaxation, he will seek nomination as candidate for president of the republic at the PDS National Convention. He says he believes that Gen Joao Figueiredo will not impose a candidate on his party's delegates or even suggest one. In the coordination of the succession, he feels that when the time comes, the head of the government will leave the decision up to the majority political forces in the electoral college. He will wash his hands of the matter of picking from among various candidates. In Maluf's opinion, that strategy would be the crowning touch to the democratizing task carried out by Figueiredo, and it would also protect the president from the risk of defeat.

Although assuming that that is how things will work out, Maluf does not rule out the opposite hypothesis--that he might turn out to be Figueiredo's choice or that, even though he does not expect it, the president might find a way of announcing his preference for one of the other candidates. But even in that case, he is determined to keep going and to contend for the nomination at the PDS convention.

He feels that if nothing unusual happens, the succession will be political, and he intends to participate in it, feeling that he is in a position to achieve victory "through work, competence, and organization." His greatest triumph, as he emphasized, is the certainty that if he does not have the president of the republic's support, neither will he be vetoed. "And without a veto, under normal democratic procedures, the candidate with the best organization, work, and competence will win." In his opinion, "Heaven is not in favor of generals, and it will not be in the near future."

Opening a drawer in his desk, Maluf asked the reporter whether he wanted to see his Bible. When the reporter said yes, Maluf showed him a list of the names of all the Federal deputies and senators broken down by state and party. That is where he is focusing his sights, with the routine proviso that the time has not arrived for attending to the succession and that Gen Joao Figueiredo's instructions must be obeyed at all costs. Only when the president makes the decision will the succession process begin. Even so, Maluf reads his "Bible" every day and even makes notes in the margin concerning the leanings and stands of each of the 479 deputies and 69 senators. He presumably has other "religious" reading material in the drawer.

Paulo Maluf acknowledges the existence of other candidates, and he is not sparing in his praise of any of them: Aureliano Chaves: "great political and administrative ability"; Mario Andreazza: "a first-rate worker for development"; Octavio Medeiros: "a patriot"; Costa Cavalcanti: "an achiever and politician"; Leitao de Abreu: "a jurist and revolutionary"; Helio Beltrao: "a solid administrator"; and Marco Maciel: "a great revelation." But he feels that he has a better chance in the political contest than any of them and even puts forward an idea that is peculiar to him, to say the least: if elected president of the republic, he would like to have them in his cabinet. Aureliano, he says, would

be the best possible minister of mines and energy. He would move Andreazza to the Ministry of Transportation and Public Works, if Andreazza agreed, while the Ministry of Interior would go to Costa Cavalcanti, a man from the Northeast. And so on.

As far as his running mate is concerned, he feels that the decision will have to be discussed with the forces supporting him, but with the condition that the running mate be from the Northeast: "Virgilio Tavora, Marco Maciel, Flavio Marcilio, or someone else of the same caliber."

Maluf reacted vehemently to the argument that the government would not need to veto him, since it could leave the job of discrediting him politically to Governor Franco Montoro in Sao Paulo through the latter's probes into his administration. He emphasized that other governors may have been as honest as he was, but that none of them has ever been more honest than he. He is not afraid of any investigations, and he even recalls that the only charge against him is that while mayor of Sao Paulo, he donated a car to each player on the soccer team that won the World Cup in 1970: "The cars don't belong to me: they belong to Pele, Carlos Alberto, Tostao, and the others. I have no doubt that the courts will rule in my favor, but in any case, I am making a promise here: I will give an automobile--using money out of my own pocket--to every player on the Brazilian team that wins a World Cup from now on."

The former governor of Sao Paulo lists four situations that would lead him immediately to give up his candidacy for president of the republic: 1) if Gen Joao Figueiredo were to accept reelection due to needs dictated by the economic and financial crisis or other factors, in which case he, Maluf, would be in the front line of those supporting such reelection; 2) if the president were to decide that the successor should again be an active four-star general--Minister Walter Pires, for example; 3) if the international financial community, because of Brazil's difficulties, were to recommend Minister Delfim Netto as head of the government; or 4) if the situation due to the crisis were to make it appear indispensable for former President Ernesto Geisel to return to Planalto Palace--obviously through the offices of Gen Joao Figueiredo.

With those exceptions--and in fact, it is practically impossible that any of them would arise--he is a candidate and will not give ground, "basing his decision on his certainty that the political relaxation will succeed." He says that he obviously can wait since, being 51 years old, he feels that he will be able to run in at least three more presidential campaigns following this one. He recalls that everyone doubted his chances of becoming governor of Sao Paulo when the government forces had already nominated Laudo Natel as their candidate. But since he was not vetoed, he went ahead, and he won. And all things considered, the same thing can happen again.

Most of Maluf's remarks revolved around the level of his friendships. He began with Figueiredo, to whom he considers himself very similar, "since we are both spontaneous and have the characteristic of telling the truth." He recalled that in recent years, the president has referred to him in complimentary terms at least 300 times, including one occasion in Salvador, when, in the presence of Governor Antonio Carlos Magalhaes, he said that with "about five Malufs, he

would have solved all his political problems." He rendered services and was helped in his administration by the head of the government, and that, too, leads him to conclude that it is impossible that the president would veto him as a candidate. And if he is not vetoed, he repeated several times, he will reach Planalto Palace.

He then talked about the president's chief aides. He cited Leitao de Abreu's "qualities as a jurist and politician: a perfect chief of the Civilian Household both under Medici and now." He feels "genuine admiration" for Leitao de Abreu. He praised Gen Octavio Medeiros as one of the men most familiar with every facet of the national situation from nuclear energy to school lunches, "since the SNI [National Intelligence Service] has become a true mirror of national reality." He called Generals Rubem Ludwig and Danilo Venturini his "old friends" who would never help veto him. He does not agree that Heitor Ferreira is his political middleman in Planalto Palace, but he acknowledges "the private secretary's liking for his organization, work, and competence." The other private secretary, Col Luis Carlos Coutinho, is also his "close friend," although he feels that Coutinho may be leaning toward Aureliano Chaves.

The words of praise went beyond the government. Maluf lavished praise on former President Geisel and rejected the argument that Geisel had vetoed him. He recalled that in a recent conversation with third parties, Geisel had said that he saw in Maluf three virtues and one fault. The virtues were "work, competence, and organization." He does not know what the fault was, since he was not told. General Golbery do Couto e Silva also did not escape his attention: "He is one of the best minds in the country: a man of exceptional perception concerning the Brazilian political process and one with whom everyone should converse: a man favorable" to Maluf's candidacy.

The former governor concluded by emphasizing that the framework of the succession has been established despite everyone's duty to respect Gen Joao Figueiredo's instructions. That framework is not likely to change from now on, and the contest will take place within the PDS. He does not believe that the government machinery will be used to favor another candidate if, by chance, the president should express a preference for someone, "because in Sao Paulo, for example, that machinery didn't work." The government's candidate was Reynaldo de Barros and only he, Maluf, wore out his vocal cords attempting to help de Barros. In the secretariat itself, how many people stopped work and crossed their arms, partly because the polls showed that Sao Paulo's mayor was running far behind and partly because of personal ideas? That situation is bound to be repeated on the federal level.

In short, the candidate is at the starting gate. Obviously, he is not saying how many votes he expects to win at the PDS convention. He says only that they will be the majority. And if the government does not heed that fact, that is very probably what will happen.

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FIGUEIREDO FEARS DETERIORATING RELATIONS WITH GOVERNORS, STRIKES

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 20 Mar 83 p 4

[Article by Carlos Chagas: "Governors Still Worry Planalto"]

[Text] Meeting with a friend last Thursday, President Joao Figueiredo said he was very concerned about the behavior of the new opposition governors. He felt the telegrams he had received from them were positive, since he had nothing but praise for most of the statements made by the 10 opposition governors elected in November. As he emphasized, however, he has misgivings about certain future developments. He will meet with the governors when they request an audience and if his schedule permits, but he believes that all of them, without exception, will come to him seeking funds--funds which, in view of the serious economic financial crisis, his administration does not have to offer. He will help the states--without discrimination--to the extent possible, but he knows he can do little for them. He will be compelled to give not just less than they ask, but less than they need.

Thus, as the president commented to his confidant, he fears the governors will soon begin to criticize the federal government, shifting the responsibility to it for what they cannot accomplish, or even for their simpler problems. In the case of strikes, for example, who can guarantee that they will not take to the streets, supporting the strikers and throwing the blame for the low wages on the government?

While he hopes that work-stop movements will not erupt, with their explosive consequences, he is alert to this possibility and fears that each case will be exploited by the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] and PDT [Democratic Labor Party] governors.

Regarding Leonel Brizola, the president said he does not understand how Brizola intends to establish socialism in Rio de Janeiro State, an idea as foolish as it is dangerous. The president did not like the new governor's reference to the need for radical revision of the state constitution, since the state charters must necessarily follow the principles of the federal constitution.

Seeking to inject a little optimism, his companion spoke of the behavior of the opposition governors so far, characterized by statements in favor of consensus, understandings with the federal government and service in the public interest.

The president agreed--more or less, considering his fears about what might happen, not in theory, but in practice--and when he heard references to the important role played by Tancredo Neves, he acknowledged it, but interjected: "He is the best of a bad lot..."

On Friday, Figueiredo gave the impression that he had carefully read all the inauguration addresses delivered 2 days before, with emphasis on those of his adversaries. He cited passages from several of them, either to bolster his suspicion or in agreement with them. He said he was prepared to receive all of them, but he cautioned that if they came to his office thinking to leave with their financial problems solved or with funds to carry out projects, they were risking great disappointment. Political liberalization requires him to go along with them and even assist them, but he feels they will yield to the temptation of demagogic. Summarizing the relationship, he is determined not to discriminate against any individual or state, but also to remain attentive to the limits of the constitution, whose principles must be respected.

This kind of unburdening by the president reveals the extent, if not of the fragility, at least of the delicacy of the development of the new federal experiment. Planalto Palace accepted the election results, guaranteed the installation of those elected and does not intend to interrupt the process of democratization, but it retains some mistrust, a legacy from the past. It has its sites trained on the governors, some of them more or less disarmed, like Tancredo Neves, and others who, like Leonel Brizola, more closely reflect the reaction of the electorate to the current situation. President Joao Figueiredo is a tropical St Thomas, for whom seeing is believing, and until he believes--or sees--he is keeping his guard up.

Knowing of the president's private unburdening of his feelings, the question that arises is whether, in the end, with or without reason, he will see the facts bear out his predictions. The states, both those held by the opposition and by the PDS, are bankrupt. They will need funds, not so much to initiate new projects, large or small, but to keep current ones going, or even to meet the simple day-to-day problems, from meeting their payrolls to paying overdue installments to their contractors.

Unemployment would appear to be the darkest cloud hanging over all the states. Although the president says he will not discriminate, it is in the nature of things for his ministers to favor the PDS governors somewhat, especially since they are located in the more disadvantaged region, the northeast. To think that the opposition governors, without funds, will continue to praise and to spare the federal government, while the masses are gathering in front of their palaces or in the public squares, is a midsummer night's dream. Even if they cannot shift all the responsibility to Brasilia for what happens in the future, they will certainly give credit where credit is due, so to speak. They will not, as Figueiredo foresees, find it necessary to lead the imagined picket lines or suggest marching on the federal capital. It will only take a few phrases expressing doubt, or despair, for their voice to reach the Central Plain, exaggerated and even distorted, but reverberating, and since it is not the president's nature to keep his pique in check, he will retaliate with equal or even greater thunder.

From Tancredo Neves to Leonel Brizola, from Franco Montoro to Jose Richa, all the governors know this, but their dilemma will equal or surpass that of the general, because they cannot remain quiet without provoking criticism, or reaction, from their constituencies. They won precisely because they constituted an alternative; the electorate did not so much vote for them as it voted against the federal government. Unless they produce, and even because of the political liberalization, they will owe an explanation to the public, and they cannot throw the blame for everything on the international situation, in the manner of Delfim Netto, sparing the federal executive. When they start their terms, they will be initiating an uncommon drama, whether or not Figueiredo's fears are exaggerated.

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LULA DENOUNCES DIVISIVE UNION SECTORS, URGES UNITY

Brasilia CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 28 Feb 83 p 7

[Text] Speaking in Brasilia yesterday to security guards who were meeting for the first seminar for that class of worker, Luis Ignacio da Silva (Lula), former union leader and now chairman of the Workers Party [PT], challenged the policy of reconciliation and denounced the activities of Brazilian union sectors that are not defending the interests of the working class. One of those sectors that Lula mentioned by name was the Union of Federal District Civil Construction Workers, whose leaders he accused of being on the side of employers in the construction industry.

According to Lula, it is not only the regime that needs to be combated. He said that one of the most serious problems is the existence of union leaders who are not committed to the workers. Lula also discussed the distance that exists between various union leadership bodies and their rank and file. Lula said: "The leaders make big speeches and have big ideas, but the workers don't even know for whom they are speaking. It is not the post of union leader that gives one the right to speak in the name of the working class."

Speaking to 320 security guards, who were meeting for the first time to discuss their problems, Lula used historical examples of big projects which, in his opinion, have made the life of Brazil's inhabitants difficult. He began with the Strike Law of 1964 and went on to mention the wage policy of 1965, the establishment of the FGTS [Service Time Surety Fund] in 1967, AI-5 [Institutional Act No 5] in 1968, the "economic miracle of 1974," nuclear energy, and the National Security Law, winding up with the policy of national reconciliation proposed by the new governor of Minas Gerais, Tancredo Neves.

On the subject of the "economic miracle," Lula also mentioned the action taken by then Minister Delfim Netto to falsify the cost-of-living index so as to cut wages. On the subject of nuclear energy, the former union leader was loudly applauded by his listeners when he said that "what the Brazilian needs is physical energy--beans, rice, and corn--and not what they are doing with those plants."

Reconciliation

The chairman of the PT said he does not believe in the policy of national reconciliation because "there is no reconciliation between capital and labor, seeing

that as long as the former exists, labor will be exploited." When a reporter mentioned that the reconciliation proposal originated with recently elected opposition governors such as Franco Montoro and Tancredo Neves, Lula emphasized that this is nothing new, that it was also done in 1930 and 1964, and that "it will always be possible for the national bourgeoisie to unite to prevent the advance of the working class."

Throughout his speech, the former union leader stressed the need for awareness and organization among the workers, since in his opinion, "the people with doctorates and the aristocrats" now running the country are responsible for the existence of 25 million illiterates, 12 million children who are not receiving an education, and a country with the highest infant mortality rate in Latin America.

Luis Ignacio da Silva claimed that the only response the workers can give to the recessionary policy now ruling the country is to set off a general strike. Although saying that he could not set a date for the strike, he announced that CONCLAT (National Congress of the Working Class), which will meet soon, will make a "decisive effort" to prepare for the strike movement.

The moment of greatest tension during his speech--when facial muscles could be seen tightening among his listeners--came when Lula brought up the danger of unemployment and suggested that despite that danger, people must take to the streets, struggle, fight, and make demands to guarantee their right to dignity, survival, and a decent life.

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LUDWIG REPORT OUTLINES STRATEGY TOWARD POLITICS, MEDIA

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 28 Feb 83 p 19

[Article by Etevaldo Dias]

[Text] Brasilia--President Joao Figueiredo's speech is the first result of the strategy designed by Minister Rubem Ludwig on the basis of a consensus among the five presidential ministers. It lays down political guidelines to be followed until the end of the government's term. The document--which is being called the Ludwig Report--consists of 20 pages, 5 of them devoted to an analysis of the Federal Government's relations with the opposition governors.

Governor Leonel Brizola's name is one of those given prominent mention in the report. According to the document, the Figueiredo administration's relations with the governor will be at a high level. Rio de Janeiro will receive all the funds to which it is entitled, it will not be boycotted by the Federal Government, and the ministers will be urged to analyze Brizola's requests impartially. The Federal authorities have also decided to maintain cordial relations with the PDT [Democratic Labor Party] governor: Brizola will be treated, according to one presidential adviser, as a partisan opponent but not as an enemy.

Origin

This is the third political plan to be generated by the Presidency of the Republic. The first dealt with the beginning of the Figueiredo administration and called for such measures as amnesty, a reform of the political parties, and social policy. The second laid down the strategy for direct elections for state governors, making it clear that President Figueiredo would not interfere in the process of choosing candidates, but would respect the decision made by the PDS conventions.

The Ludwig Report was not written exclusively by the minister-chief of the Military Household. It was the result of talks held during the meetings at 1500 hours between President Figueiredo and the "household ministers." President Figueiredo asked Ludwig a month ago to formalize the consensus arising out of the daily meetings with Ministers Leitao de Abreu of the Civilian Household, Octavio Medeiros of the National Intelligence Service, Delfim Netto of the Ministry of Planning, Danilo Venturini of the National Security Council, and Ludwig himself.

The document was approved by President Figueiredo 20 days ago after he had read it carefully and contributed to it with several handwritten notations in the margins. Twenty copies bearing the red "confidential" stamp were distributed. The second-echelon advisers who received copies are instructed by Ludwig to return them immediately after reading them. Each minister will prepare new documents detailing his implementation of the basic guidelines.

High Level

According to two sources, the Ludwig Report is a high-level document. In the opinion of one presidential adviser, it does not advocate petty political action, but indicates the paths to be followed until the government's term "ends with the presidential succession," to use that adviser's expression. But the report does not deal directly with the succession; it merely lays down the government's action in that connection.

In the political area, the report advocates more aggressive participation by the Civilian Household, urging the minister to engage in greater dialogue with politicians. The first visible result of that recommendation was the meeting held last Tuesday between Minister Leitao de Abreu and the PDS leaders. One source at Planalto Palace revealed that in accordance with the report, the politicians will be provided with complete information regarding government action.

As far as the media are concerned, the report recommends that the president begin making more frequent use of the press, radio, and television. The president's speeches will be delivered whenever the need for them is indicated by a political or economic event. The document also recommends permanent work with public opinion in order to establish the credibility of the authorities through clarifications from the country's authorities.

According to another source in the Presidency, the document does not go deeply into an analysis of the government's economic policy. But it recommends that the ministers maintain an open attitude toward society and advises greater participation by business circles and class organizations in making economic decisions.

The report also contains a number of suggestions concerning President Figueiredo's attitude while traveling, granting audiences, dealing with the press, and making speeches. It also proclaims the need to take advantage of political opportunities for the government's benefit.

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LUDWIG'S SLOW CLIMB, LEITAO'S GROWING ISOLATION DISCUSSED

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Mar 83 p 6

[Article by J.F.F.]

[Text] Brasilia--Gen Rubem Ludwig, chief of the Military Household, has persuaded President Figueiredo to accept his plan for a presidential address to the nation concerning the economic crisis being experienced by the country. This is to be part of the new official strategy in the field of open and frequent communication with society, but it has not yet been enough to transform Ludwig into the president's chief confidant and most influential adviser. That position continues to be occupied by Prof Leitao de Abreu, chief of the Civilian Household, who is still quite highly esteemed and respected by Figueiredo even though he is becoming increasingly isolated from the other palace advisers and being tolerated with increasing difficulty by many PDS [Social Democratic Party] congressmen.

The idea for the speech was part of the so-called Ludwig Report, but the way in which it was carried out was not, and the results were considered disappointing by public opinion and frustrating to several presidential advisers in the first echelon. It was a purely retrospective speech broadcast twice on the same day over television and radio--on the eve of a message to Congress that, for its part, was considered important and was guarded by the government like a state secret on orders from Minister Leitao de Abreu. In any case, Rubem Ludwig, who is a relative newcomer to the palace group, is beginning to occupy his own space, trying to stimulate and modernize the behavior of the government core, and attempting to improve the interplay among the so-called household ministers.

Occupying an eminently political post, Leitao is more austere, reserved, and impermeable to criticism than Ludwig in the Military Household, which has a tradition of defending dialogue and being receptive to valid suggestions even if they come from outside the government's decisionmaking core. The general is accustomed to discussing the main topics of national interest with a few friends so as to keep up with and analyze the development of events and engage in forecasting exercises. This against the background of a situation regarded as extremely dynamic, considering the reopening of Congress, the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] and PDT [Democratic Labor Party] governors, the government party as a minority in the Chamber of Deputies, and the worst economic crisis in recent years. In Ludwig's opinion, such a picture makes it inadvisable

for the government to withdraw to the point of possibly endangering its credibility with the public. Most of the members of that group were disappointed with last week's presidential speech.

Meanwhile, Ludwig must carry out his task with extreme skill, and so far he seems to have succeeded, although the persistence with which some sectors mention him as presidential material may, in the opinion of some of his associates, help harm him. Incidentally, the general has no greater ambition beyond his military career, and he is aware that he must help promote government unity, the establishment of levels of trust between the government and public opinion, and the permanent strengthening of the democratic regime. In the opinion of PDS members familiar with the palace's inner workings and of his friends, propelling the chief of the Military Household into the spotlight too enthusiastically would mean exposing him to pressures that might harm internal relations among the chief officials in Planalto Palace. Because of that, his aides prefer to concede that Ludwig is occupying his space gradually and not imposing his ideas on the president and the other ministers.

Prof Leitao de Abreu, on the other hand, while consolidating his strength and nourishing the hope of also being a candidate to succeed Figueiredo, is increasing his isolation in the palace. As far as his relations with the party are concerned, PDS congressmen cease being invited for talks if they disagree with him. At least one deputy leader in the government party said this week: "It is difficult for anyone to relate to Leitao normally." Decisions that are his personal jurisdiction are being increasingly remembered for their negative results, and the suggestions in the Ludwig Report may have the same fate if they are "improved" by the chief of the Civilian Household.

In the opinion of observers in the government itself, however, the glaring differences in temperament between Leitao and Ludwig may develop into dissension if the government's economic, political, and credibility crisis grows worse and Figueiredo maintains the reserve that lasted from the elections until the re-opening of Congress. Some ministers complain about Leitao because when it is up to him to write speeches for the president on behalf of the government, he neither consults any of them nor shows them the contents ahead of time. He takes all the initiative himself. Ludwig, on the other hand, likes to trade ideas with his colleagues in the cabinet beforehand. The chief of the Military Household also has cordial relations with all sectors in the palace, while his increasingly standoffish colleague in the Civilian Household gives orders for officials with whom he does not want to speak to leave his offices.

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ITAMARATY REPLIES TO CHARGES OF LEADERSHIP VOID IN FOREIGN TRADE AREA

Coordination a Problem

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 Mar 83 p 27

[Text] Commenting on statements by businessman Laerte Setubal that there is a "lack of leadership" in foreign trade and that political and bureaucratic decisions "are lost among seven different ministers," Itamaraty spokesman Minister Bernardo Pericas acknowledged yesterday that it is very difficult to centralize Brazil's foreign trade. The minister observed, however, that the Foreign Relations Ministry has made a very great effort, "including attempts to maintain continuous contact with the businessmen.

"This issue has been around for a long time and there was even the attempt to establish CONCEX [National Council on Foreign Trade], which fell through for want of a body to coordinate the measures. What happens is that foreign trade actually involves measures that are necessarily the responsibility of several different ministers," Pericas said.

According to the Itamaraty spokesman, these measures are both of a domestic and foreign nature. In his opinion, in an economy like that of Brazil, where the state's participation in economic activity is very great, the centralization of foreign trade involves a series of problems. "But there have been attempts by the government to bring about this coordination.

"At Itamaraty, for example, there is a great concern for insuring coordination and informing each ministry of events that affect its area. I do not know the thinking of the government regarding the statements of Olavo Setubal, because I was out of the country when they were made, but our effort has been such that the Sao Paulo businessman was even invited--and he accepted--to accompany Minister Saraiva Guerreiro on his trip to China and Japan last year, in his capacity as president of the Brazilian Exporters Association.

"Even more recently," he continued, "Carlos Costa, the new president of this association, was a member of the Brazilian delegation to the GATT meeting, along with 10 other businessmen, including members of the National Trade Confederation."

The Itamaraty spokesman returned to Brazil yesterday with the other members of Minister Saraiva Guerreiro's delegation, which visited the United States and

three African countries: Gabon, the Ivory Coast and Guinea-Bissau. On his arrival at Galeao International Airport, he announced that Minister Guerreiro had extended his trip to Geneva and should return to Rio day after tomorrow.

Assessing the trip, Pericas said the results of the discussions in the United States and Africa were excellent in terms of expanding cooperation between Brazil and the countries visited by the delegation.

Setubal Criticism

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 23 Mar 83 p 22

[Text] There is a kind of institutional conflict in this country and a lack of leadership in the foreign trade area, which further reduces the possibility of achieving a positive trade balance of \$6 billion this year, according to Laerte Setubal, vice president of Duratex and president of the Brazil-United States Business Council.

Setubal, who took part in the seminar on business planning in 1983, promoted by the Foreign Trade Study Center Foundation [FUNCEX], said that he had recently delivered a study to President Figueiredo proposing creation of a central command for foreign trade, directly subordinate to the Presidency of the Republic. "The study even defines the criteria for the choice of the most suitable appointment," he explained.

Difficult Goals

FUNCEX superintendent Roberto Fendt and Jorge Nogueira Batista Jr, economist with the Getulio Vargas Foundation, agree that the government's goal of a positive trade balance of \$6 billion will be difficult to achieve, particularly because of the difficulty in limiting imports to only \$17 billion.

"Foreign trade is a two way street. You cannot think about expanding exports and reducing imports," warned Batista, and the two other discussants agreed.

The participants in the seminar defined two major problems: the bilateral nature of the foreign trade structure, which prevents, in practice, the expansion of exports to a particular country without a corresponding rise in imports, maintaining the equilibrium; and the lack of leadership, which makes government policy unclear.

"There is an institutional conflict in Brazil," commented Laerte Setubal. "The Central Bank does not want us to export to Nigeria, for example, but CACEX [Foreign Trade Department of the Bank of Brazil] does. Someone must take effective command in Brazil. We need someone to bang the gavel, to give the final word."

The vice president of Duratex advocated creation of a position similar to that of Gen Danilo Venturini in the area of land issues; "a kind of minister plenipotentiary, like U.S. Ambassador William Brock," he explained.

The three conferees criticized the establishment of a strict import goal this year as an unworkable strategy for the expansion of exports. According to Nogueira Batista, the goal of a \$6 billion surplus was established on the basis of the country's financial need to correct its balance of payments and not on the actual possibilities in today's international market.

Setubal explained the proposal for the creation of a central command for Brazil's foreign trade, making it clear that this is not a "solution to the problem, but a temporary measure for 1 or 2 years; it could even be the nucleus for a future Ministry of Foreign Trade."

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BRIZOLA COMMENTS ON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, INTENDS TO STAY IN BRAZIL

Creative Solutions

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 4 Mar 83 p 6

[Text of interview with Leonel Brizola, governor-elect of Rio de Janeiro, by O GLOBO, date and place not specified]

[Text] In an interview with O GLOBO, Governor-elect Leonel Brizola said that, from an economic standpoint, he expects the "same difficulties that all the other governors will have." In view of this situation, he feels that "those who work more creatively will do better."

Brizola also said he does not plan a spectacular administration. He expects that the "climate of inhibition" in relation to the federal government "will be transformed into a climate of collaboration on possible solutions" to problems that affect the people and that, from his first day in office, he will be acting in this spirit.

Following is the text of the interview.

[Question] What will be your first move after assuming office?

[Answer] As I have said many times, I do not plan a spectacular administration. I must work hard, from the outset, with my colleagues to absorb this confusing situation. There are many areas with layers of complicity, a whole administrative regime that has been operating at a low level of efficiency. [It will] certainly be a quiet effort, but one with great firmness and tenacity.

On assuming office, I must take a number of actions to organize the various administrative echelons. My administration has priorities and the first of these is education. The most urgent, however, involves the areas of justice and security, because the people are much affected and concerned by our current situation. The press is witness to this. I believe this is the most urgent action the public is expecting from us.

Another immediate priority is the bureaucratic situation. Starting on 16 March, we will begin to study the problem and make some determinations.

I have received several complaints about upsetting operations conducted under the table, involving millions of cruzeiros, in various administrative agencies. It is a matter for us to take up immediately, to verify the origin of these accusations, because, if they are true, they represent an intolerable drain on the public purse, even affecting the state's ability to pay its civil servants.

[Question] The path of political negotiation with the central government; how should the [governors] conduct their courtship with the central government, as a block or individually?

[Answer] I repeat: I hope this climate of inhibition will become one of collaboration in arriving at possible solutions to the problems that have been affecting the public so greatly. The public interest is impersonal. I do not intend to make arrangements with other governors, other than the normal ones involving common problems. I am certain that President Figueiredo will not tolerate discrimination against the people of Rio de Janeiro, his native state. For our part, as soon as we take office, we will be acting in this spirit. Cooperation between the state and the union is imperative. It overrides any political prejudice, and no spirit of factionalism can come before the public interest. I will be governor of all the citizens of the city and the state of Rio de Janeiro-- those who supported me and those who voted against me. I am sure the same thing will be true of President Figueiredo; in carrying out his duties as chief of state, he is the governor of all Brazilians.

[Question] What problems do you expect to have from an economic standpoint, considering the year will be full of cutbacks?

[Answer] The same problems that all the other governors will have. Those who work more creatively will do better. In addition, I intend to combat any and all waste (stewardships, materials, unnecessary consumption, etc). I will demand the strictest accounting from all officials in the various areas of public administration.

Even now we are planning new secretariats, and they will be organized without any added expenditure, remanaging the existing funding and functions. By raising the level of efficiency of the public administration, including the tax collection services, dynamizing all the potential in furtherance of our program, we will overcome many of the shortages that the times will impose on us.

Ample funds are no guarantee of a good administration. An example of this is the authoritarian period, which produced the option for grandiose projects, the proliferation of stewardships and years of waste, leaving a state where we can point to government offices and companies with deluxe facilities and operations, whereas essential services, such as schools, are at a miserable level.

[Question] Should the appointment of officials in the federal administration be turned over to the governor's office?

[Answer] Within normal government practice, this would make no sense. If the state government is responsible for appointing its officials, the same is true of the municipios and the federal union. What often happens is that there is

a climate of cooperation and understanding, aimed at giving efficiency to the common effort, holding consultations in order to avoid possible difficulties between the public service officials. Hence I do not think it is a major inconvenience that commanders of the state PM [Military Police] forces should be appointed through a system of consultation with the federal government. It would be inconsistent with the principles of the constitution not to recognize the hierarchy of the federal Armed Forces, as long as the autonomy of the states is protected, in matters of public order.

It is another question to have the union impose legislation in this regard, usurping the state's competence. Specifically regarding this matter, however, I feel this is not the time to question these details, especially since there is an atmosphere of very good will.

[Question] Is it politically justifiable for the government to give special treatment to the PDS [Social Democratic Party] in states where it was victorious?

[Answer] Unfortunately, this has been a practice in our country, so much so that no government that I have observed in my lifetime has failed to do it. In periods of authoritarianism and despotism, these practices reach the limits of scandal and the most rampant factionalism, even awarding contracts without regard for competitive bidding and disregarding the most legitimate rights. It is natural for a government to try to entrust all the advisory and leadership posts to those who are committed to its programs, but no government or party official ever has the right to destroy the machinery of the state and turn it into a kind of "driving belt" for his own interests.

The Brazilian people have the right to demand disinterested, strict and honest conduct from all their governors and mayors and the federal government, without any discrimination in relation to parties which are of the opposition or fulfilling administrative responsibilities, at any level.

And Now, Governor?

Governor-elect Leonel Brizola guaranteed yesterday that all the children in the state who are attending primary school will be provided with free bus service. The announcement came during a live interview on the program "What Now, Governor?," broadcast by the GLOBO Network.

Brizola said the bill that guaranteed half-fare for all students was "PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] and PDS demagogic," and was defeated by the PDT [Democratic Labor Party] bench in the Municipal Chamber. He explained that, in his administration, only students from the secondary school to the university level will pay half-fare on the buses.

For an hour, the governor-elect reaffirmed the priorities that he advocated in his electoral campaign: education for all children, with food assistance--"real food," he stressed--and medical care. He again criticized Governor Chagas Freitas for failure to act and said that all the statistics received from the current administration were "unreliable."

Patrols

Regarding his idea of dividing the Security Secretariat into two parts -- Military and Civil Police--he explained that "there must be, strictly speaking, no separation.

"'Governor, what will you be doing?' I do not want middlemen. When something happens: 'Colonel, let's go,' 'Officer, let's go.' The people expect Brizola to take this responsibility. I am not separating, I am uniting," he observed.

The governor also offered as justification for the division the previous conflicts between the secretary of security and the commander of the Military Police, adding that the new organs will be united by law and by the "credibility of the governor."

Stressing that "security is a serious matter," he warned that he will denounce extreme intervention.

"No vigilantism, either on the right or the left," he stressed. With the 40-percent cut in remunerated offices and positions of trust, Brizola intends to avoid costs with the creation of nine new secretariats, and "even manage to save some money."

Brizola also explained that the Secretariat of Mines and energy will be responsible, among other items, for the state's interests in the exploitation of the petroleum in Campos. He also promised to handle the problem of the increase in governmental bureaucracy within 3 days after he takes office.

Home To Stay

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 14 Mar 83 p 3

[Text] To the almost 1,000 people--including international political figures who took part in the Conference on Socialism, Democracy and Sovereignty in Latin America--present in the auditorium of the Rio Othon Palace Hotel yesterday, Governor-elect Leonel Brizola promised that he was home "to stay."

"I have returned for good. I will never leave again. I will not go into exile again. Destiny has given us this 'bridgehead' here in Rio de Janeiro, and we are going to work from it."

Greeted with shouts of "Um, dois, tres, quatro, cinco mil, queremos Brizola presidente do Brasil" ["One, two, three, four, five thousand, we want Brizola for president of Brazil!"], he said that the "Brazilian people want no quarrel with our military brothers" and asked the military to "resume the role that belongs to them." In the closing address of the conference, the governor-elect even jokingly invited a "possible SNI [National Intelligence Service] agent to bring his tape recorder up to the table."

Emotion

On the second day of the conference, while the television sets in the lobby of the auditorium ran continuous showings of the short film "On Record," produced by film makers Guy Van den Beque, Angela Mascelani and Manro Moreira on the

verification of the election results in Rio and the Proconsult episode, there were moments of great emotion.

One occurred when Senator Pompeyo Marquez, leader of the Venezuelan socialists, offered a motion of support for the struggle in El Salvador, for the self-determination of Nicaragua and against U.S. President Ronald Reagan's domino theory regarding Central America. Late in the afternoon, Brazilian Abdias do Nascimento, alternate federal deputy soon to fill a vacancy, stirred the audience and moved Idialeda Nascimento, future secretary of social welfare, to tears when he pledged to "clamor and cry out on behalf of the blacks, who have been the whipping boys of the ruling class."

To standing applause, Hortensia Allende, widow of the former Chilean President Salvador Allende, who died in 1973, hailed the "great statesman Leonel Brizola," and wept as she asked that "in September, on the 10th anniversary of Salvador's death, after 10 years of military dictatorship in Chile," everyone remember his dying words: "Broad avenues of trees shall be opened; victory will come to the people."

Almost all Brizola's secretaries attended the 2-day seminar in the Rio Othon Palace Hotel. Future Mayor Jamil Haddad and several deputies mingled with the public, which appeared yesterday in greater numbers at the convention hall and continually interrupted the speeches with applause.

Concluding his address, Brizola acknowledged that he will be governing "in a context so difficult and complex that it will be fascinating."

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CSO: 3442/93

BRIZOLA CALLS FOR REFORM OF RIO DE JANEIRO CONSTITUTION

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 16 Mar 83 p 4

[Text] Speaking yesterday following his installation as governor by the Legislative Assembly, Leonel Brizola (PDT [Democratic Labor Party]) called on the Rio deputies to assume the "leadership of all Brazil in the redemocratization of this country" and to dedicate themselves to the "glorious task" of drafting a new constitution for Rio de Janeiro State. Brizola recalled that the present state constitution was promulgated (in 1975) "when Institutional Act No 5 was in full force," and contains "evils that were imposed on us by the authoritarian regime that ruled for so long in our country."

Declaring to the deputies that he was counting on "everyone, irrespective of party," Brizola said his inaugural vows included the "issue of the right of the people of Rio de Janeiro, particularly in the north of the state, to share in the profits from the rich resources of our territory." He stressed that he would be engaged in defining the "rights and duties" of Rio de Janeiro state vis-a-vis the federation, later adding that "above all else, we will be able to continue to disagree, to debate."

To emotional applause from the galleries and the floor at Tiradentes Palace, Brizola ended his address with an homage to former Senator Teotonio Vilela, for whom Brizola had delayed the beginning of the inaugural ceremony for 20 minutes, awaiting his arrival. Calling Teotonio "a symbol of the Brazilian opposition," the governor-elect related that he had only come to know the former senator after he returned from exile in 1979. He added that once, when they were traveling together, Teotonio had confided how much he regretted having taken part in the 1964 revolution. "I confess, my countrymen, that never in my life will I hear a statement with so much force of truth and such conviction," Brizola said, raising his arms with clenched fists.

Reservation

At 0815 hours, after working his way through the crowd that occupied the steps of the Tiradentes Palace, Brizola arrived on the already filled floor of the Legislative Assembly. In the galleries, only the seats of honor on the left side were empty, awaiting the arrival of the rest of the foreign delegations invited to the ceremony.

Brizola, dressed in a dark blue jacket, maroon tie, light blue shirt and grey trousers, occupied the seat to the right of Deputy Paulo Ribeiro, president of the House, on whose left was Vice Governor Darcy Ribeiro and, next to him, Jamil Haddad, future mayor of Rio. Also invited to sit at the head table were senators Roberto Saturnino (PDT) and Nelson Carneiro (PTB [Brazilian Labor Party]), deputy Jorge David (PDS [Social Democratic Party]), first secretary of the Legislative Assembly, who read the charge of office, Judge Lourival Goncalves de Oliveira, president of the Court of Justice, and Marcelo Alencar, president of BANERJ [State Bank of Rio de Janeiro].

In the audience, among federal deputies of the PDT, members of the Legislative Assembly and secretaries of the new administration, were Judge Marcelo Santiago, president of the Regional Electoral Court, and Col Carlos Cerqueira, commander of the Military Police. No military authorities attended the inauguration ceremony.

Brizola's granddaughters Laila and Juliana, the daughters of Neuzinha and Jose Vicente, were brought in to be with their grandfather. Brizola held Laila, his favorite grandchild, in his arms and posed for photographs. At 0825 hours, Deputy Paulo Ribeiro announced, to applause, that "our special guest, Teotonio Vilela" was on his way to the Tiradentes Palace. While he waited, Brizola took coffee, reread his speech and chatted with Laila.

At 0845 hours, everyone at the Tiradentes Palace rose to applaud Teotonio Vilela, who had arrived, walking with the aid of a cane. From the far end of the table, Brizola exchanged greetings with Teotonio, each gesturing with clasped hands.

The inauguration ceremony began with a rendition of the national anthem by the Military Police band. Laila and Juliana began to sing, and Darcy Ribeiro encouraged them, accompanying their singing with conducting motions. Then, in a halting voice, Brizola read the constitutional pledge and signed the articles of office. When he had finished, he broke into a smile, raised his arms and made the V for victory sign with his fingers in response to the chant from the floor: "Um, dois, tres, quatro, cinco mil, queremos Brizola, presidente do Brasil!" ("One, two, three, four, five thousand, we want Brizola for president of Brazil!").

At 0857 hours, after Vice Governor Darcy Ribeiro had signed the articles of office, Deputy Paulo Ribeiro declared Brizola installed as governor of Rio de Janeiro. There was another demonstration of joy from the floor, which Brizola acknowledged, pulling up the sleeves of his jacket to repeat the V for victory sign.

"This is from the heart, and not simply words," Brizola said, as, at 0900 hours, he began to read his address. He declared his determination to carry out the constitutional commitment assumed just minutes before. He made a reservation, however, quickly adding that he intended to defend and observe the constitution and the "legitimate" laws.

Directing his words to the Legislative Assembly deputies, he insisted on the need to rid the state constitution of "all the evils that came from the arbitrary and authoritarian regime." At that point Brizola abandoned his prepared address and spoke extemporaneously.

His tone became more decisive and the applause more prolonged when the governor promised to be "irreproachable in safeguarding and defending the rights and privileges of those who do not think as we do." He further declared that human rights "include social and economic rights, along with civil rights," and announced that priority would be given to the "salvation of vast numbers of our children and young people."

The applause was even more prolonged when Brizola declared that, without assistance to children and youth, "we could seek out economists, technocrats and bankers from every corner of the world" and "at most, they would manage to make our country a prosperous colony."

Scare

When Brizola was 40 minutes into his address, "Beijoqueiro" (Jose Maura, ["the kissing clown"]) rushed from the floor, mounted the stenographers' table, hurdled the officials' table and fell upon the governor. Alarmed, Brizola caught his hands, while Deputy Paulo Ribeiro seized him around the chest. Beijoqueiro was removed by the Legislative Assembly security guards, but not before he had kissed Brizola three times on the cheek.

Brizola's son Jose Vicente had an attack of jitters and spent the rest of the ceremony sitting beside his father. From outside, to an applauding crowd, Beijoqueiro shouted from the steps of Tiradentes Palace: "I kissed him, I kissed him!" Having recovered his composure, the governor resumed his speech at 0950 hours, commenting, with a smile: "As you all saw, that was a demonstration of love--a little exaggerated--but we have to live with this kind of incident."

After paying homage to former Senator Teotonio Vilela, Governor Brizola concluded his address: "I want to say that I assume the office of governor and declare to the people of Rio de Janeiro that I deeply love this state." The ceremony ended, Brizola went to Teotonio and, in a rapid conversation, offered Rio to the former senator "to use as a forum."

It was 1040 hours when Brizola emerged from the doors of the Tiradentes Palace to enter the Landau--licence number 001--which would take him to Guanabara Palace to assume the office from former Governor Chagas Freitas. The crowd surrounded the governor, but the Military Police guard did not interfere. Greeted with sky rockets and cries of "Brizola! Brizola!", the governor managed to take off in the car, which was accompanied by the crowd to the intersection of Rua da Assembleia and Avenida Rio Branco.

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(REPORTAGE ON CACEX DIRECTOR'S TRADE TALKS IN MEXICO

Barter Ruled Out

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Apr 83 p 32

[Text] Carlos Viacava, director of CACEX [Foreign Trade Department of the Bank of Brazil], and Tarcisio Marciano da Rocha, chief international advisor of the Ministry of Finance, led the Brazilian delegation which began a 3-day visit to Mexico yesterday, to attempt to revive trade between the two countries.

Marciano da Rocha feels it is possible to return to the 1981 level, when bilateral trade reached \$1.43 billion, but he ruled out the possibility that the Brazilian and Mexican governments would agree on a recourse to "barter" (the exchange of merchandise without the use of currency), "a practice detrimental to international trade."

Even without resorting to a simple exchange of merchandise, the Finance Ministry advisor feels that Brazil and Mexico could bring about an adjustment in their trade "so there would be no net expenditure of foreign exchange," conducting their transactions under the terms of the CCR (Reciprocal Credit Treaties) in effect among the member countries of the LAIA.

Actually, Brazil and Mexico could resort to a barter system, but in such a way as to observe the rules of international trade dictated by the IMF, LAIA and the GATT [General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade], with party-to-party payments of identical value, without a debit balance in the CCR clearance.

According to Marciano da Rocha, Brazil could increase purchases of Mexican oil, with Mexico acquiring Brazilian products of equal value. In December, the Brazilian authorities sent the Mexican Government a list of products that could enter the Mexican market on competitive terms and would be complementary for the two economies. For example, Brazil imports petroleum and exports capital goods, manufactured products, machinery and parts, in addition to foodstuffs.

On the basis of studies presented at the end of 1982, the Brazilian delegation will meet tomorrow with the ministers of finance and public credit, trade, transport and foreign relations and with directors of Mexican state companies. An optimist, Marciano da Rocha expects that this year Brazilian purchases in Mexico will reach about \$800 million, with exports to that market in the same value.

The most recent data of the Central Bank indicate that, from January to November 1982, Brazil purchased \$729.3 million worth of products from Mexico, whereas sales amounted to only \$308.2 million. In 1981, the comparable figures were \$783.8 million and \$643.5 million, respectively.

Other Countries

Viacava and Marciano da Rocha have also scheduled trips to Nigeria, Venezuela and the east coast of the United States as part of the efforts to "correct the chronic trade deficits or rearrange the trade exchange." Although each market has its own characteristics and deserves individual treatment, the Brazilian Government feels that the countries which have similar problems with their balance of payments could promote mutual assistance by means of broad understandings in the trade area.

With the rebuilding or creation of markets ("Indonesia, for example, has 150 million inhabitants and Brazil exports almost nothing to that country"), the Finance Ministry advisor believes in the goal of a positive trade balance of \$6 billion for this year. "The effects of the maxi-devaluation of 21 February," he stressed, "had already showed up in March, when the surplus reached \$400 million, and opened prospects for even larger balances in the months following. Specific results have begun to appear from the elimination of some flaws in the export promotion policy."

Trade Possibilities

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Apr 83 p 26

[Text] On the second day of its visit to Mexico, the Brazilian trade mission led by CACEX director Carlos Viacava closed a series of contracts that open prospects of raising the bilateral trade balance to \$2 billion per year. The first shipments should take place in May.

The information came from the Finance Ministry, in a note from its public information office. The CACEX director was received yesterday by Luiz Bravo Agullera, undersecretary of industry and trade, and today, the final day of his visit, he will meet with Finance Minister Jesus Silva Herzog.

The note stresses that the primary result of the mission will be to substantially increase the flow of trade between the two countries. The first results will be to resume the growth rate of bilateral trade, which reached about \$500 million in each direction in 1981, but suffered a sharp decline last year, when it stood at \$200 million in each direction.

The discussions between the Brazilian and Mexican delegations were conducted in six working groups, which examined the possibilities for bilateral trade as they related to the following areas: new products for bilateral trade; matters of payment, insurance, etc.; shipping and transport; issues pertaining to the LAIA; specific projects and products common to both countries that compete in third markets (as in the case of Mexican "henekn" and Brazilian sisal).

The Brazilians want to expand exports of food products (primarily soybeans, corn and sugar), manufactured products for industrialization (steel, petrochemicals, lubricating oils), manufactured products (capital goods for the electric-electronics industry, machine industry, railway transport, auto parts and the automotive industry) and industrial goods (components, equipment and replacement parts).

For their part, the Mexicans are interested in expanding exports to Brazil of food products such as honey, chickpeas and tuna, manufactured products which have traditionally been exported to Brazil (photographic film, X-ray film and some industrial parts) and petroleum.

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BRIEFS

EAST EUROPEAN TRADE DATA--The next campaign by Carlos Viacava, general director of CACEX [Foreign Trade Department] to revive Brazilian exports could be in East Europe, not ruling out the possibility of a Viacava visit to the major capitals of communist Europe. The will to reconquer that promising slice of world trade was stimulated by the disappointing figures for Brazil's trade balance with East Europe. Between 1981 and 1982, Brazilian trade with the region fell 16.5 percent overall, with a decline of 31.2 percent in exports (\$1.745 billion in 1981, as against \$1.2 billion in 1982). It is the CACEX director's intention to revitalize sales of some traditional products, such as soybean chaff and raw coffee beans, which almost came to a halt last year. [Text] [Brasilia CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 17 Mar 83 p 11] 6362

SALES TO USSR--Last year Brazil signed a major contract to export sugar to the Soviet Union, with sales valued at about \$200 million. Specialists in the sector predict that the new contracts will be announced in the next few weeks, although nothing has been officially reported by the Sugar and Alcohol Institute [IAA]. Last week, IAA president Confucio Pamplona and entrepreneur Mario Pacheco met in Rio for several days with Vladimir Golovanov, president of Protinorg, the Soviet sugar importing company. Pacheco has a trading company, and with his Soviet ties, he will open an office in Moscow next month. Last evening, before returning to the USSR via Paris, the president of Protinorg said there was a good possibility of increasing purchases of chickens and beef from Brazil; in turn, Brazil would import petroleum and ro-ro type ships (with truck access), in an operation involving \$150 million. [Text] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 14 Mar 83 p 4] 6362

STEEL EXPORTS TO PRC--Plinio Assmann, president of COSIPA [Sao Paulo Steel Company] yesterday announced the closing of a contract for the exportation of 180,000 tons of steel produced by the firm to mainland China by the end of the year. According to the industrial leader, for Brazil, this represents the conquest of an important slice of the Chinese import market, which up to now has given preferential treatment to Japan. Edinaldo Pinto de Almeida, COSIPA's commercial director, returned this Thursday from China, bearing the export contract, the culmination of a long period of understandings and negotiations, for at least the last 4 years, with frequent visits traded by technical consultants. "It is important to emphasize," Assmann stressed, "that this sale opens a wedge in the Chinese market for other Brazilian products. Hence it is important to implement the contract with maximum efficiency in this first major trial, in terms of schedules, quality, specifications and technical assistance." [Text] [Brasilia CORREIO BRAZILIENSE IN Portuguese 20 Mar 83 p 18] 6362

PAGES FROM GDR--The first of 46 cranes ordered from the GDR by PORTOBRAS [Brazilian Ports Enterprise] was delivered in Santos on the 3rd. The ceremony was attended by Abreu Lima, the port's operations manager; Jose Fernandes Senna, head of the enterprise's Port Operations Department (DEPORT); and Sergio da Costa Matte, chairman of CODESP. The delivery ceremony was held in the Stiil Corporation's assembly yard at Pier 39, where two other units are being assembled. Acceptance of the crane is provisional pending completion of a few tests, and the 1-year guarantee period will begin after that. And by the end of the month, four more cranes will be shipped from Wismar, all of the 10-ton kangaroo type or of the 6.3-ton type used for moving general or bulk cargo. The crane received last week will be taken to the Fertilizer Terminal in Conceicaozinha early in April. [Text] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 8 Mar 83 p 26] 11798

ARMS SALE TO GABON--Brasilia--Gabon, a small African country whose recent history does not record any armed conflict inside or outside its border area, is becoming one of the major clients of Brazil's war materiel industry. Contracts have already been signed this year amounting to \$2.6 million, and Engesa tanks and Embraer planes with a total value of \$25 million were exported in 1981. The first meeting of the Brazil-Gabon Joint Commission will be held from 14 to 17 March (coinciding with Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro's visit to Libreville), when the Brazilian delegation will attempt to broaden the possibilities for bilateral trade, in which Brazilian sales have shown a chronic deficit. Another African country, the Ivory Coast, will also welcome a Brazilian technical-trade delegation from 17 to 21 March, for the third meeting of the bilateral joint commission. In the Ivory Coast, which is the major banking center in west Africa, the Brazilian interest will be concentrated on reactivation of the Bank of Brazil line of credit, valued at \$5 million, which was established 2 years ago. [Text] [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 10 Mar 83 p 21] 6362

CSO: 3342/99

NATIONAL LIBERATION LEADER FAVORS ODUBER CANDIDACY

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 6 Mar 83 'Enfoque' Supplement pp 1, 2

[Interview with Bernal Jimenez by Victor Hugo Vargas; date and place not specified]

[Text] If Daniel Oduber is not the National Liberation Party's candidate for the presidency of the republic in the 1986 elections, Bernal Jimenez, chief of the government's parliamentary faction, fears that there will be a far more serious internal confrontation than those which occurred on previous occasions.

Jimenez, who disclosed that he has presidential ambitions, was interviewed on this and other topics. He is an economist, who occupied the Ministries of Finance and Economy during the administration of Francisco J. Orlich (1962-66), and who was executive president of the Central Bank in Oduber's government (1974-78). As a result of his training, position, career in public life and ambitions, Jimenez has something to say about politics and economics, as well as other aspects of national events. The interview went as follows:

[Question] Why do you oppose a reform of Article 132 of the Political Constitution, which would allow for the president's reelection?

[Answer] Have I opposed it?

[Question] Then why do you support it?

[Answer] I support it casuistically. I cannot beat about the bush or appear with spurious positions in this respect, because it seems to me that the possibility of Daniel's becoming president again is beneficial for the country and for the National Liberation Party.

[Question] And what will happen if he is not the candidate?

[Answer] What happens in a democratic party. There would be an internal confrontation among those who aspire, or those of us who aspire, as some claim, to the presidency, which would be far more serious than on previous occasions.

This is part of the reason that I am, and I repeat, I am not ashamed to admit it, backing the reelection position of Daniel Oduber, particularly now that two terms have elapsed.

[Question] Don't you think that there are people in the party with ambitions and the capacity to run?

[Answer] There are other possibilities, but in the existing situation I believe that the best option is the presidency of Daniel Oduber.

[Question] When you spoke of candidacies, you did not exclude yourself. Do you really aspire to the presidency of the republic?

[Answer] Every good citizen who is in politics aspires to be president, but I have made no decision regarding the next election. With all due respect to the colleagues who are participating now, that is a mistake. It is a bad act to be thinking of candidacies at present, when what is needed is backing for the government management of President Monge.

We shall see the situation in 1985. If Daniel is the candidate, wonderful; and, if not, there will be forces entering the contest. But the presidential candidacies or acts being engaged in by some colleagues, based merely on personal political criteria, are completely unfeasible. It seems foolish to me.

[Question] And who are the ones aspiring?

[Answer] A large number of colleagues; I think that there are more than there appear to be.

Economy

[Question] Comments have been made on the fact that an easier solution has not been found to try to surmount the crisis than increasing prices of goods and services, and ordering new taxes. Was that the best option?

[Answer] The measures that the government has adopted are for adjustment, and entail sacrifice, so as to prevent worse ills that could have occurred.

[Question] Was that the only solution?

[Answer] No, it would have been possible not to adopt the measures and to make up the deficit with inorganic issue, and the price increase would have been worse, and inflation would have been further accelerated. The sound solution is the one that has been adopted in the monetary, pricing and credit areas.

[Question] Excuse me for persisting, but are you sure that we had no other course of action remaining to us?

[Answer] There was no other one left, if we wanted to curb inflation.

[Question] Are you in favor of more taxes?

[Answer] I do not favor taxes on production; I consider it unfeasible to continue taxing the productive areas. Nor do I share the view that, in general, a tax system should be based on levies imposed on production. In the future, this country, if it wants to raise its standard of living, improve productivity and

and achieve greater prosperity, will inevitably have to export more, and diversify what it sells abroad; and that cannot be accomplished if the productive processes are taxed. We cannot pursue the path of imposing more taxes.

There are six basic taxes on which this society must base its tax policy: income, taxes on capital, territorial taxes, vehicle taxes, and taxes on sales and consumption.

[Question] So how should the tax system operate?

[Answer] As I told you, it must be based on taxes levied on luxury consumption and sales, and on what I have already enumerated. And, most important of all: in a society that wants to make progress toward justice and solidarity, a good income tax must be in operation, good as a law and excellent as an administration, so as to implement tax justice. With this simple statement I am describing what the Costa Rican people's collective financing system should be.

[Question] So you are not in favor of constant taxation?

[Answer] What is done by imposing taxes with stamps and with intermediate levies on products is to make the cost higher, to the consumer's detriment. And the most serious part is that it puts the Costa Rican producer in a state of competitive disadvantage.

[Question] Has President Monge ever asked you for advice, in your capacity as an economist?

[Answer] Well, we always talk every week, when we see each other, and I have the opportunity to speak at the Economic Council and the Government Council, which I attend. But what I am stating here seems to me to be the government policy, which does not favor taxing production. That has been the policy in this area.

[Question] When there are colleagues of yours, deputies, who foster decisions intended to allocate funds to solve problems and then tend to impose taxes on what you claim should not be taxed, as faction chief, how do you feel?

[Answer] Those who perceive the people's needs and who are aware of the social reality are the deputies. They feel, encounter and experience the problems of their communities, and that is unquestionably a motive for constant searching for solutions to social problems, which I fully justify. In a country with meager resources, when it is desired to resolve those problems, proposals arise in the best of good faith.

[Question] So could I claim that you do not favor the tax on remittances abroad?

[Answer] No, I have never said that; I have said that I do not favor tax systems which impose taxes on production costs.

[Question] When a tax is decided on, is it not discussed beforehand?

[Answer] It should be discussed.

[Question] But in this specific instance of the tax on remittances abroad, was it discussed?

[Answer] The proposal came up in the commission. The two deputies who proposed the tax came to talk with me after their motion had been passed.

[Question] Still in connection with taxes, do you consider them sufficient now, and that no more need be approved?

[Answer] I say that we cannot continue with a profusion of taxes.

[Question] If the Executive Branch did not share your position and submitted more tax bills, what would your attitude be?

[Answer] It depends on the type of tax, on what was involved. I do not think that there is room for more taxes. If more proposals are sent seeking to impose taxes on production, I would not agree.

[Question] If the option for tax levies is tending to become depleted just 9 months into the administration, what solution do you see for the country's economic situation?

[Answer] To manage the taxes that we already have well; to make the people pay. Those which are in the Assembly and which are part of the tax package must, indeed, be passed.

The Assembly

[Question] Do you think that this administration would have governed better with fewer deputies?

[Answer] No, not at all.

[Question] There have been criticisms owing to divisions. Do you agree with them?

[Answer] The faction has become divided on account of personal nuances, viewpoints and natures, as the president of the republic has aptly commented; but the faction has not been divided as a result of ideological differences.

[Question] Currently, the battle for the presidency of the Assembly has appeared again, and you are one of those aspiring to that position. Is this the best time to battle, without causing any splits among colleagues?

[Answer] I think that the matter should be decided on the basis of a consensus, and considering the national interest and that of the party. It is not just a matter of individuals. We must consider who the best national personage is, and we must not disregard the party's position either. I have a large group of colleagues backing me, but this will be decided by the faction in April. It should be noted that, last year, I postponed, not my ambition, because in all sincerity I wanted to be faction chief, but, since I had a group of colleagues who wanted me to run for the presidency, I deemed it far more feasible for Hernan Garron to occupy that

position. This time, what I can guarantee you is that there will be no splits nor divisions.

[Question] Do you like the way in which the opposition is being handled in Congress?

[Answer] At times it does not satisfy me.

[Question] Why?

[Answer] Because it seems to me that, sometimes, in the case of Unity, it has been concentrated largely on its own interests, and inflexible with regard to the representatives of United People.

At this point in the interview, Jiemenz was looking at his watch constantly, because he had meetings to attend to in his office. So I asked him one final question.

[Question] Do you think that the local press has in any way helped to enhance or erode the image of Congress in the eyes of the public?

[Answer] Well, not at present; it is not opposed to the deputies. Generally speaking, the attitude of the press has at times been one of not understanding certain things. I shall repeat to you a comment made by Jose Figueres, within the confines of the Presidential House, which drew my attention to a great extent. He said that, when he was in the Government Junta and had many problems, a man came along whose name was Ernesto Marten, and who suggested that he create the Assembly, because in that way the deputies would be blamed for what went wrong. But, speaking seriously, I do not think that there is any deliberate press position against the members of Congress.

What the Assembly has done is back the government's bills; but, furthermore, I think that the people of Costa Rica are very much aware, and I think that they have anticipated and viewed favorably the measures which have been adopted. The people realized that they had to make a sacrifice.

That prompted me to ask another question:

[Question] Are you convinced of this?

[Answer] That is how it appears to me.

2909

CSO: 3248/645

UNITY HEAD LACLE WARNS OF THREAT TO SOCIAL PEACE

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 13 Mar 83 'Enfoque' Supplement pp 1, 3, 4

[Interview with Rolando Lacle by Victor Hugo Vargas; date and place not specified]

[Test] In an interview granted to LA NACION, the chief of the Unity parliamentary faction, Rolando Lacle (San Jose), warned that the honeymoon is ending for President Monge and that he, a good politician, must realize it.

Lacle a 43-year old attorney, and deputy for the second time, who has breathed politics since he was an adolescent, comments on the country's future, the internal battles in National Liberation, the obstacles that the president has encountered in governing and what his faction will be in the coming months.

The congressman admitted that the country has more than enough legislation, disclosed that he often meets with Monge and asserted that the great tragedy of the party in power is that many of the high-ranking public officials are precandidates for the presidency of the republic.

He also expressed regret that "this government has not done more than try to stabilize the colon and fight with Nicaragua."

The interview went as follows:

[Question] Do you think that the country has sufficient legislation to be able to devise measures for emerging from the crisis?

[Answer] What Costa Rica has more than enough of are laws; what it lacks are men to enforce them.

[Question] So, if the country is saturated with legislation, what do you consider to be the deputies' function at present?

[Answer] Well, they should set themselves up to exercise the political control of the government. Supposedly, the Legislative Branch should be the one to curb the excesses of the Executive Branch in the specific instance of public spending; because it has the legal and constitutional authority for doing so. But, unfortunately, when the government has a parliamentary majority such as the current one has, that control does not take place; and if the Assembly does not correct its attitude,

and if the congressmen in the parliamentary majority want to continue gaily spending as if we were in a prosperous era, what one foresees is a tragedy of very serious proportions.

[Question] Apart from making constant appeals for reduction in public spending, what are you in Unity willing to do as a contribution for surmounting the crisis?

[Answer] There is one reality: Liberation has an overwhelming majority in the Legislative Assembly. They can approve anything they want without resorting to any cooperation or aid from the opposition, unless it is a matter of time that is involved. The only thing we can do is continue calling attention to the seriousness of this matter for the country's institutional existence; because I have the impression that the increases will continue and that there are no measures of a social type that would at least minimize the effect on the population. And if the government does not curb public spending, this country could even lose its social peace. The people will no longer tolerate this race of increments.

[Question] Will that be all you will do from now until 1986?

[Answer] Well, we could continue not only to call attention to this, but also to submit bills aimed at curbing that spending; but we cannot ignore the reality that the policy decisions for these 4 years are those of the National Liberation Party.

[Question] But don't you have any concrete plan?

[Answer] Well, we have put into committee, and are working actively for approval of the creation of the budget authority.

[Question] But that is nothing new; it dates back to the previous administration.

[Answer] Yes, it does, but we have backed it, we have taken it out of committee, we have put it in action; and, if applied correctly, it could prove to be a means of curbing public spending.

[Question] How do you define the opposition in Congress? What is its function?

[Answer] To oversee the government's actions. The people who voted for us gave us a very clear mandate: we are the people's prosecutors against a government filled with power. We back everything that the administration does for the good of the country, but when they begin to show very obvious signs that there were no programs, nor measures, and no political consistency for carrying forward something that would enable the country to come out ahead, the opposition has an obligation to make this known clearly to the public, and to strive in the Assembly to have action which, rather than improving the nation's conditions, is making them worse, halted or checked in some way.

[Question] You announced that you would not vote for more taxes, and lately, at least in statements made in the press, you have confronted National Liberation. Does this mean a change of position from now on?

[Answer] I believe that the opposition must continue to harden its position in the Assembly. The government has not given the necessary proof that it really and truly

wants to resolve this crisis; and if it pursues this path, the opposition will have to report that to the people with far greater intensity than has been shown during the first months of this administration. The honeymoon is ending for President Monge and, as a good politician that he is, he must realize it. The passage of time is inevitable. Monge has another year to govern this country. Within 2 more years, the political ardor will have been greatly destroyed and, as a result of this, the political conditions in the Legislative Assembly will be far different from what they have been during this first year.

Lacle coughs, lights another cigarette, and waits.

[Question] How do you analyze the National Liberation faction?

[Answer] The fact is that it is a faction gone adrift; in it, no one is in command, no one has supremacy, there is no parliamentary organization that would really allow for learning the kind of coordination that a group needs. Each member goes about on his own. There is a very severe confrontation among them, and all this has caused that faction to be an incidental one. They have no strategy; there is no command.

[Question] And you do have a strategy?

[Answer] Yes, a very clear one for the 4 years.

[Question] What is the goal?

[Answer] To see how we can help the country succeed; but you cannot fail to realize that Unity's parliamentary faction is the party's visible agency from a political standpoint. We shall never engage in an obstructionist effort, because I don't think that the opposition's effort can ever put the party's interests ahead of those of the country. But there is, indeed, one reality: This year, it was proven that the Monge administration lacked the necessary programs for actually extricating the country from the crisis. With the passage of months, the government has been showing its inability to govern.

Lacle called his secretary and requested coffee.

[Question] Have you not at times felt impotent against a faction so strong numerically as the Liberation one?

[Answer] Every time there is a vote we are impotent against the force of numbers, but I think that we have achieved something very important, namely, that it has been proven that there is a great difference between the two groups. We have very clearcut positions toward the country's problems, and the people now know who has done the country the most harm.

[Question] In spite of everything, will Unity offer any beneficial bill at least during the next few weeks?

[Answer] Of course. We are devising a bill that will be an alternative to SEL. I think that it will be beneficial. As for the unemployment aid, we agree that the 8-year ceiling should be stopped, and that the benefits are a real right for the

workers. What we do not favor is that this money be used to nationalize them, to create another big bureaucratic monstrosity. We think that it should be the workers who manage their own money.

[Question] Do you approve of the way in which the candidates for deputy are selected?

[Answer] It is not the best. I am preparing a bill to change the type of selection. I think that the Legislative Assembly has become overly municipalized, and we must find a method that will allow for a sizable representation of those sectors. But we must also find some way whereby the municipal deputies will not be in the majority. It has occurred to me that half should be elected on a national list, and the other half by means of the system currently in force. The fact is that the candidate for the presidency of the republic can only wield an influence on the three, or first four positions on the ticket representing San Jose, and then his potential for action is very limited for the designation of candidates who share his thinking and who are people with sufficient ability to be able to view the country's problems from a national perspective.

Since he wishes to discuss different topics, Lacle makes a comment: "Snipers are appearing for this government every day." And he adds: "What has happened is that there is a very intense conflict between the government and Liberation."

[Question] In other words, the party is interfering in the government's own affairs?

[Answer] There is a clearcut confrontation between Monge's economic team and the National Liberation Party, and the reason is that the party has been operating politically since the day that Monge won the elections. They have not ceased to engage in politics, possibly on account of the flourishing of internal candidates, which has put a group of very strong interests into play.

Lacle lit another cigarette, blew a puff of smoke and remarked: "The party wants the government to perform work, but the country's situation is not suited for doing that. The economic team would like to embark on an austerity plan, but the party will not let it."

[Question] In this connection, do you approve of the government's foreign policy?

[Answer] I think that it was well oriented at the beginning, especially with regard to Nicaragua; but I believe that the time has come when they have turned that international policy into a dispute, a personal confrontation. And this is not good, as part of the overall strategy that a foreign policy must represent.

And although it has little to do with the original question, Lacle adds: "The great tragedy of Liberation is that many of the high-level public officials are precandidates for the presidency, and this is distorting the government's effort. Monge is perhaps the most secluded president ever known in recent years."

[Question] More so than Carazo?

[Answer] More so than Carazo, even during the last years of his administration. Monge makes very clearcut proposals about particular aspects, and he always finds

an official in his government who contradicts him; there is no harmony. And I want to tell you something else: This government has not done more than try to stabilize the colon and fight with Nicaragua. That could go on for 6 months, to years, but it can never go on for 4 years. From the standpoint of popularity, that has been useful to it, but it could never be claimed to respond to an overall strategy.

[Question] Do you talk with President Monge often?

[Answer] Yes, that is my obligation. I have a personal friendship that dates back many years, and provided he wants to talk with me, and I with him, we find an expeditious way of doing so, possibly because we keep up a personal relationship transcending our political differences.

[Question] Do you look for him, or does he call you?

[Answer] Either. Monge is a parliamentarian, and that is important. His problem is that he has not managed to establish a uniform government team, and that he has a powerful enemy: the National Liberation Party.

Lacle related that, when he was 14 years old, his relatives took him to Mexico to meet the Calderons. "When that Rafael Angel was 5 years old, and wore short pants, he was neither spirited nor precocious, but very distinguished and a good student."

Lacle, who remembers dates, names and places with great ease, lights another cigarette.

[Question] You smoke a lot, don't you?

[Answer] Two packs a day.

2909
CSO: 3248/645

GOVERNMENT DENIES OUTLAWING OF GROUP

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 13 Mar 83 p 2-A

[Text] The minister of justice, attorney Carlos Jose Gutierrez, gave assurance yesterday that the registration of the by-laws of the Costa Rican Association for the Conservation of Nature [ASCONA] has not been suspended.

He explained in this day a report released by his office on Friday in which reference was made to the suspension of the aforementioned association. A press notice was released with the details explaining this measure.

According to the statement of the government official, the suspension involved the resolutions passed at the extraordinary meeting held on 26 February in which the problems arose when the body proceeded to act on dismissals and appointments.

Gutierrez was asked to nullify this meeting by Rodolfo Infante Garcia, who was dismissed from his post as treasurer.

In taking the action against ASCONA, the minister granted a hearing to Professor Carlos Murillo Ulate, president of that association, with the understanding that within 8 days he will make an appropriate statement and present the evidence bearing on the case.

In the meantime, several discrepancies have arisen following the decision of the minister of justice.

Arturo Rodriguez Acevedo, former executive director, gave assurance that the minister's decision was not influenced by political factors in connection with the possible construction here of an interoceanic oil pipeline.

On the other hand, Alexander Bonilla stated that pressure is being exerted in the case by a government group and he denied that ASCONA is being infiltrated by elements of the extreme Left, advocating a boycott of the construction of the oil pipeline.

According to Rodriguez Acevedo, Minister Gutierrez acted well, because illegal letters of convocation to general assemblies were issued and also the executive director, the treasurer and a directress were dismissed illegally.

re- added that, in addition, the meeting had proceeded to the illegal appointment of a treasurer and other members of the board of directors and "they went to the ultimate extreme of appointing directors in a session of the board held for the purpose of dismissing the executive director."

Rodriguez stated that "these flagrant irregularities have nothing to do with the oil pipeline project. That is to say, an organization that repeatedly violates its by-laws and the Law of Associations deserves to be subjected to sanctions by the ministry responsible for monitoring them."

However, Alexander Bonilla stated that "the pressure of the pro-government group has reached such an extreme that they have involved or have appealed to the Ministry of Justice to invalidate the expulsion and dismissal of members of the organization who were obviously acting contrary to the institution's designation as being conservationist."

Bonilla stated: "we sincerely hope that the threats to close the instruction will not be endorsed at the higher administrative levels of the government and that it has been only the interests of individual groups that have led to the attempt to involve the government itself. If this is not the case, it would be a tremendous blow to our individuality and the day would not be far off when we would see events similar to those occurring in the rest of the Central American area and other totalitarian countries."

8089

CSO: 5000/2021

DECREE REGULATING FARMERS FREE MARKETS

Havana GACETA OFICIAL in Spanish 22 Oct 82 No 48 pp 223-226

[Council of Ministers Decree No 106 issued on 30 September 1982]

[Text] Council of Ministers Decree No 106

Whereas the network of parallel state markets for agricultural and livestock products is not organized nationally to collect and market specific agricultural surpluses or state products intended for that purpose, the existence of a farmers free market where surplus or marginal products of the private sector are marketed contributes to the supply of these products for the population;

Whereas it is suitable to maintain provisionally the marketing by the farmers themselves of said agricultural and livestock products of the agricultural sector which exceed the amounts established in contracts with the supply enterprises and of those marginal products which are not subject to contracting;

Whereas the experience seen since the promulgation of Decree No 66 of 3 April 1980 through which the farmers free markets were created and regulated and of the agreements and resolutions of the 6th Congress of the ANAP [National Association of Small Farmers] makes advisable the amending of the norms contained in that decree with the purpose of eliminating in part the deficiencies found in their operations;

On the basis of the authority conferred on it the executive committee of the Council of Ministers has decided to decree the following:

Regulation of the Farmers Free Market**Chapter 1: General Provisions**

Article 1--The farmers free market is an economic activity directed to facilitate the sale to the population of agricultural and livestock products which are not marketed in the state supply network because noncontracted products are surpluses exceeding those contracted for are involved:

Article 2--For the purposes of this decree

Understood by surpluses of contracted products are those quantities which exceed the figures determined in the agricultural and livestock production contracts with small farmers organized into credit and service cooperatives or in farmers associations and with agricultural and livestock production cooperatives; and

Understood by noncontracted products are secondary or marginal products produced by said farmers in the above paragraph and which are not covered by the contract with the supply enterprise.

Article 3--The following will participate in the farmers free market:

- i. Agricultural and livestock production cooperatives;
- ii. Credit and service cooperatives;
- iii. Farmers associations;
- iv. Members of credit and service cooperatives and of farmers associations; and
- v. Other cooperative entities that ANAP may organize in the municipalities.

For the purpose of this decree the entities mentioned in sections a, b, c, and e will constitute the base organizations of ANAP.

The entities mentioned in sections a, b, c, and e will participate in the farmers free market through one or more sales representatives designated by the pertinent base organization.

The producers mentioned in section d will participate individually or through sales representatives or a member of their nucleus involved in their field of production who may be authorized by the president of the farmers association or the pertinent credit and service cooperative.

For the purpose of this decree understood to be a sales representative is any small farmer affiliated with the National Association of Small Farmers, selected or authorized by the pertinent base organizations.

Excluded from participation in this market are unorganized producers. Understood to be unorganized producers are those who are not affiliated with a base organization of the National Association of Small Farmers or do not have the credentials certifying them as such.

Article 4--The participants covered by Article 3 will be authorized to market in the farmers free markets products that are subject to contracts only if they fulfill the contracts of state supply of these products.

State supply enterprises will enforce this requirement, systematically arranging with base organizations of the National Association of Small Farmers the [contract] fulfillment of the authorized participants.

Sales authorization for noncontracted products can be refused when there are or it is confirmed that there are deficiencies in deliveries in the products contracted for on account of negligence, use, or diversion of resources, or for other causes that can be attributed to the producer.

Article 5--Authorizations to act as seller on the farmers free market will be granted to individuals in their own right or others representing the former or entities and the authorizations will be issued by the base organizations of the National Association of Small Farmers. In every case a deadline will be set within which products for marketing can be delivered. The authorizations will specify or determine the quantities of products only when these are established in complementary provisions.

When they go to market the sellers can be accompanied by a person involved in their field of production as long as these are not minors or students and as long as these persons are authorized by the pertinent base organization of the National Association of Small Farmers.

Article 6--The participants in the farmers free markets covered in Article 3 will deposit as security with the government on a daily basis an excise tax of 20 percent of the gross revenues obtained from the sales effected.

The State Finance Committee will establish the procedures for the payment and settling of this tax.

Article 7--The authorized participants mentioned in Article 3 will be able to market their products in the farmers free markets of the municipality where they reside or in any other municipality of their choice, a fact that will be indicated in the authorization document according to the policy which, for its implementation, the Ministry of Domestic Trade will draw up.

Chapter 2: Concerning the Organization of the Farmers Free Market

Article 8--The farmers free markets will be under the jurisdiction of the respective local organs of the People's Government. The executive committees of these municipal organs are authorized to organize farmers free markets in the areas of their municipalities, according to the regulations which the Ministry of Domestic Trade may establish for that purpose.

Article 9--The executive committees of the municipal organs of the People's Government will decide the following for the organization of the farmers markets:

- a. The organization of markets in installations or areas operated by a pertinent municipal commercial enterprise or other entities of the People's Government;
- b. The organization of the sale or rental of containers; and
- c. The organization of the rental of state transportation facilities for the purpose of moving products to their points of sale.

The municipal organs of the People's Government will regulate the organization of the above activities for operations within the respective municipalities.

Article 10--It will be possible to sell in the farmers free markets agricultural and livestock products in their natural or processed state, with the exception of bovine cattle and horses or their meat, tobacco, coffee, and cacao.

The Ministry of Domestic Trade, after hearing the opinion of the production, sanitation control and public health organs, will regulate the sale of processed products and will be able to establish additional exceptions to the above-mentioned provisions, after consulting the executive committee of the Council of Ministers beforehand.

Chapter 3: Concerning the Price of Products

Article 11--The sales prices to the population of products mentioned in this decree will be freely agreed upon by sellers and buyers.

However, when circumstances so mandate it, the Ministry of Domestic Trade, following the procedures of the State Price Committee, will be able to establish the appropriate regulations in all farmers free markets or in some of them as regards the prices of all or some products and with variations according to zones, municipalities, or provinces and according to the times of the year.

Chapter 4: Concerning the Transportation, Containerizing, and Packaging of Products

Article 12--The sellers will use for the transportation of their products any means of transportation, whether their own, chartered from private parties, or contracted from the state transportation enterprises or any other state enterprise.

Those state enterprises which possess the means of transportation are authorized, no matter what their activity, to contract the use of these means for the purpose of transportation to the farmers free markets of the products mentioned in this decree, applying the official rates in effect.

Article 13--The sellers will be able to lease or acquire containers and packaging for their products from private parties who own them or from state enterprises, paying an appropriate price in the first case and the appropriate price or rate in the second case according to the regulations established by the executive committee of the People's Municipal Government.

Chapter 5: Concerning the Installations and Services of the Market

Article 14--The sellers will pay for the use of space for the sale of their products at installations operated by a municipal commercial enterprise, a provincial enterprise, or other entity, a rental to be set by the enterprise operating the installation on the basis of the norms established by the State Price Committee.

Article 15--Should the installation offer services such as storage, refrigeration, or any other the seller will guarantee the price set by the operating enterprise, also on the basis of the norms established by the State Price Committee.

These services, as well as the space or premises mentioned in Article 14, can be leased only for the duration of the daily sale except for storage space, whether at room temperature or refrigerated, which can be rented for a longer period.

Article 16--The entities or individuals applying to use space in farmers free markets and to use their services will establish their right to do so through a sales authorization.

Sellers in farmers free markets will be obligated to comply with the hygienic-sanitary norms in effect and to sell products suitable for human consumption. The fulfillment of these requirements will be subject to state inspection at points of sale or production and their violation will be subject to sanctions according to laws in effect.

Article 17--The sales representative who takes part in the farmers free market will be obligated to present and, when he continues, to handle all the paperwork and comply with all the provisions mentioned in Article 16 and the provisions complementary to this decree.

Chapter 6: Prohibitions

Article 18--The following are prohibited:

- a. The sales of agricultural and livestock products at their production centers except those effected for the consumption of the workers or members of the state agricultural and livestock enterprises or agricultural and livestock production cooperatives as well as other sales expressly authorized by the Ministry of Domestic Trade;
- b. The sales of agricultural and livestock products directly to the population outside points or areas authorized by the pertinent local organ of the People's Government;
- c. The marketing in farmers free markets of unauthorized agricultural and livestock products in amounts larger than those declared or by an individual other than the one authorized;
- d. The sale by the sales representative of contracted agricultural and livestock products belonging to producers who have not fulfilled their contract relating to those products with the state supply enterprises or belonging to unauthorized producers, except when products which the supply organization certifies as being unavailable to us are involved.

Article 19--Those who participate as middlemen and to not comply with the regulations for sales representative in Articles 3 and 17 and those who violate

the prohibitions established in Article 18 can be considered as having perpetrated an economic crime, provided for and sanctioned in Article 272 of the Penal Code.

In all cases the competent authorities will proceed with the seizure of the products involved and will notify the entity from which the violator originates so that it may determine the temporary or permanent suspension of further authorizations to sell.

Chapter 7: Concerning Supervision and Control

Article 20--The Ministry of Domestic Trade, together with the local organs of the People's Government, will exercise supervision and control over the operation of the farmers free market system. The regular inspection of markets and of the work of personnel charged with the execution and implementation of the provisions of this decree will also be maintained through the state inspection system.

Final Provisions

First--All the functions and responsibilities assigned to the local organs of the People's Government in the present regulations, in the case of the municipalities of the City of Havana district, will be considered to be under the jurisdiction of the provincial organ.

Second--The minister of domestic trade and other heads of organs of the state central administration involved in this activity will be responsible for decreeing with the framework of their jurisdiction the norms required by the application and operation of the farmers free markets as well as any other complementary provision mentioned in this decree.

Third--The farmers associations and credit and service cooperatives will be charged with organizing the delivery of the surplus agricultural and livestock products and of those uncontracted by their members for their sale in the farmers free markets, selecting and appointing the sales representative or representatives and their essential assistants within the requirements of the present decree in accordance with the regulations issued by the national directorate of the National Association of Small Farmers.

Fourth--Decree No 66, "Regulations of the Farmers Free Market," of 3 April 1980 is hereby abolished as are various administrative provisions which are inconsistent with the present decree. The latter is to go into effect with its publication in the GACETA OFICIAL [Official Gazette] of the Republic.

Signed at the Palace of the Revolution in the city of Havana on 30 September 1982.

Fidel Castro Ruz, Chairman of the Council of Ministers
Manuel Vila Sosa, Minister of Domestic Trade
Osmany Cienfuegos Gorriaran, Secretary of the Council of Ministers
and its Executive Committee

ANALYSIS OF GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED LABOR CONTRACT BILL

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 25 Mar 83 p 4

[Article by Peter Richards]

[Text]

ROSEAU, Dominica. (CANA) — Dominica is breaking new ground in labour legislation here with a Bill that will compel employers — government excepted — to provide their non-unionised workers with clearly defined contracts.

The "Labour Contract Act", which was introduced to Parliament here this month, stipulates that every employer is required to provide each employee with a written contract specifying certain particulars of his employment, as well as to provide the contents of a basic labour contract.

"The Labour Contract Act is a necessary bit of legislation to protect the many many workers in Dominica, who are not represented by a trade union and who may never want to be represented by a trade union," Labour Minister Brian Alleyne said.

The Act comes out of the recommendations of an International Labour Organisation (ILO) report on Dominica published in 1974 and consultations involving government, employers and trade unions on a comprehensive package of industrial relations legislation.

Robert Mitchell, the ILO expert who prepared the report, said that the relationship between the employer and a worker was a

contractual one, but that in the absence of a trade union, it was very unusual for the worker and the employer to enter into any sort of contract, giving rise to total uncertainty between the two parties "until a dispute or problem arises."

"This labour contract will only come into operation where there is no bargaining agent or trade union representing the category of workers" Mr. Alleyne said.

The Act however does not apply to government, which in the case of Dominica is by far the largest employer in the state.

"The reason for this is government as an employer has its basic provisions anyhow in the general orders and other conventions governing government employees and of course government employees are covered by trade union representation," Mr. Alleyne noted.

The proposed legislation noted that the Act will not apply to an employer in respect of the employment of an employee who is included in a category of employees for which a trade union is recognised as the bargaining agent by the employer, or in the case where the employee normally works "or is expected to work less than 21 hours in each week."

"This Act does not apply to an employer in respect of the

employment of an employee who is the father, mother, husband, wife, brother, sister, son or daughter of the employer.

The Labour Contract Act makes it imperative that any new worker receive his contract "not later than 14 days from the date on which the employment commences" with both parties having to sign any amendments agreed upon "within three days of the date on which it (the contract) was delivered to the employee."

The Labour Contract Act, which the government says is mainly an instrument for the protection of any worker, setting out his rate of pay, probation period, annual leave, and the length of notice that both parties must give in order to terminate employment, is not likely to create any difficulties for the trade unions here.

Said Mr Alleyne: "The moment a trade union obtains recognition and bargains with the employer and arrives at a collective agreement then the provisions of a basic labour contract comes to an end."

"At any time a trade union wishes and succeeds in obtaining recognition the basic labour contract comes to an end. The Act ceases to apply and the relationship between employer and trade union comes into play," he added.

"We have made it very clear to one or two employers

who have resisted the efforts of trade unions to obtain representation that the workers have the right to make a choice whether they want to be represented or not. This legislation in no way prevents a worker at obtaining trade union representation," Mr Alleyne said.

Government has circulated copies of the proposed legislation to the various trade unions on the island for comments and possible amendments before the final reading of the Bill is taken to Parliament.

So far all the major trade unions including the powerful Waterfront and Allied Workers Union (WAWU) have silently welcomed the legislation, and sought only minor amendments.

But the newly-formed National Workers Union (NWU) has strongly opposed the legislation charging that "the trade unions who support the intentions and purposes of the Bill, are Judases to the trade union purpose of existence for unified and collective action."

"Those sell-out unions will be demonstrating the fact that the labour division can do a better job than trade unions in the private sector, on free collective bargaining and that the trade unionists are unprofessional and deceitful to employers," the NWU said.

CSO: 3298/509

PAPER FINDS SOME GOVERNMENT PRACTICES IN GRENADA BENEFICIAL

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 19 Mar 83 p 4

[Guest Editorial]

[Text]

There is a saying that there is a little good in even the worst person. It is a natural corollary that there is at least a little good in even the worst system.

In the great debate as to which is the better system for achieving the "greatest good for the greatest number", to which presumably both the capitalist system and the communist system aspire, it is often overlooked that there may well be virtues --- and, one dares to say, some vices --- in both approaches. Why must it always be either/or? Surely there must be some good points in both systems, and why can't we therefore adapt and adapt the good points in both!

Actually, apart from the extremist factions and the hard-core ideologies of both systems, the fact is that the main proponents of the two economic systems often utilize practices that are more typical to the other. The U.S., for example, has one of the biggest welfare programmes in the world including benefits for old age, sickness, and unemployment much more extensive than many "socialist" countries possess. The U.S. also has many laws which regulate the activities of private business, especially with regards to size and monopoly effects, etc.. On the other hand, Cuba is known to allow private individuals to own and develop the Tobacco cultivations in that country because they appreciate the personal care and attention that is required for that fragile crop. Both the USSR and China are also introducing in various ways, new practices that recognize "extra personal effort" and thus grant pay and other incentives to encourage this.

In nearby Grenada, there are many new "systems" and practices that may have some relevance to the other small islands of the Eastern Caribbean, not excluding our own Dominica. While the fundamental violations of

CSC: 3298/509

Human Rights by the Grenadian authorities must remain an area of concern, one also should not close one's eyes to the effect of some of the new policies and procedures introduced by the PRG. And some of these have been good.

For example, there is no denying that there is a good "let's get the job done" spirit prevalent in most of the government departments and associated organizations. There has been emphasis on involving grass roots people in the places and programmes of the government, thus more involvement aaround and hence motivation. While this is no substitute for regular free and fair elections, this tendency for greater dialogue is useful for other Caribbean governments to emulate.

Of even greater interest is the new discipline and output that is now typical of Grenada's civil service. Granted, that discipline may be due to the placement of the revolution's main supporters in all key areas, and the relative ease with which a totalitarian government can transfer or even dismiss staff in an effort "to get the job done". But the point worth noting is that the Grenada "system" allows for action, for productivity for results.

It would seem to us that the Dominica Government may need to seriously examine the need for a "revolutionary" approach to handling Government departments and the Civil Service generally. Formally and informally, the point is increasingly made by elected officials that "the civil service bureaucracy" remains one of the key impediments to greater progress. The mess that is in agriculture, public works, even DBS, has not been improved even after three years of a claimed "competent" government. It may be that the political leadership has erred too much on the side of "democracy". It may be time to risk erring on the side of discipline and decisiveness.

DETAILS REPORTED ON JOINT COMMISSION ACCORD WITH CUBA

Areas of Cooperation

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 23 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

GUYANA and Cuba have agreed to explore the possibility of co-operating in the establishment of a publishing house and a medical school in Guyana.

Cuba is also to give consideration to a Guyana proposal for counter-trade between the two countries.

These proposals were discussed at the just-concluded meeting of the Guyana-Cuba Joint Commission.

No additional details about the proposals for the medical school and for counter-trade are readily available. It is known, however, that the Guyana Government has been considering the setting up of a medical school at the University of Guyana.

In the case of the proposals for counter-trade, items such as rice and timber are likely to be considered in exchange for Cuban goods.

The joint commission meeting, which was attended by a 12-member Cuban delegation, headed by that country's Minister of Iron and

Steel Works Industry, Marcos Lage, ended in Georgetown Saturday. The 16-member Guyana delegation was headed by Minister in the Office of the President, Haroon Rashid.

At the meeting, Guyana also requested an extension of a \$1 million (US) Cuban line of credit to this country, agreed to during a previous joint commission meeting.

It was also requested that cement be added to the list of products available through this line of credit. These requests are to be transmitted to the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Trade.

The joint commission also agreed that:

- Cuba will provide hospital places and treatment for a specific number of Guyanese in Cuba without cost during 1983;
- 24 Cuban doctors now in Guyana will extend their period of service for a further two years, and
- Guyana will purchase spare parts from Cuba

for its sugar-cane factories, subject to an agreement on terms and conditions to be settled between the relevant agencies in the two countries.

In the area of scientific and technical co-operation, the Guyanese are to be trained in Cuba in tobacco cultivation techniques.

Guyana is also to send a chemist to Cuba for a

period of attachment at Alkyd-Resin and Paint Pigment factories in that country.

The next meeting of the joint commission, the ninth since the signing of a co-operation agreement between Guyana and Cuba in 1975, is scheduled to be held in Havana in January 1984. — (GNA).

Cuban Delegation

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 22 Mar 83 p 3

[Text]

Five members of the Cuban delegation here for the Guyana-Cuba Joint Commission meeting which ended Sunday last, visited the Mahaica-Mahaicony-Abary Agricultural Development Authority project over the weekend.

During the visit the visitors were assured that Guyana will continue on its present socialist policies. The assurance was given by Cde J. Chowritmootoo, Development Support Communication Officer of the MMA-ADA.

The five Cubans - Dennis Lawrence, David Alphonso, Adelaida Serriat, Milada Dominguez and Martha Valdes-Balcinde, were accompanied by Lennox Semple, Ormond Grant from the Department of International Economic Co-operation and Burton Gajadar of the Office of the President.

CSO: 3298/511

NEW FRENCH ENVOY PLIDES TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 25 Mar 83 p 1

(Text)

FRANCE and Guyana yesterday pledged to strengthen economic co-operation within the framework of the North-South dialogue and to work towards international peace while respecting the sovereignty of states.

The pledges were the high point at a State House ceremony when Vice-President Steve Naraine received the letters of credence from Her Excellency Madame F. Claude LaFontaine, the new French Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Guyana.

Madame LaFontaine, speaking in the presence also of Foreign Minister Rashleigh Jackson and top officials of the Foreign Ministry, recalled remarks by the President of France, Francois Mitterrand, some months ago about the "strong ties of friendship" which exist between France and Latin American people and in particular the people of Guyana.

"France's foreign policy, whose main concern is to safeguard peace, has always given priority to the respect of fundamental principles ruling international

relations and especially to the respect of independence and sovereignty of States, to their territorial integrity and non-interference in their internal affairs," the French envoy assured.

She said it was in that light that her country intends not only to maintain but also to strengthen the relations of friendship and esteem already prevailing between France and Guyana.

Madame LaFontaine pointed to the effort undertaken by France in the field of co-operation within the framework of the North-South dialogue and France's desire to help Third World countries while respecting their "individuality and their political and social options."

She added: "Rest assured that I shall do my utmost during the term of my mission to develop a fruitful co-operation and strengthen the excellent ties existing between our two countries."

After returning the normal compliments, Vice-President Naraine said the already excellent existing relations between the

two countries augur well for the mission of the new ambassador.

Alluding to Madame La Fontaine's statement on France's foreign policy, Cde Naraine said: "We entirely share your view that in international relations dialogue should prevail and that conflicts as well as disputes should be settled by peaceful means.

"We welcome your reiteration of France's commitment to the respect of independence and sovereignty of states, to their territorial integrity and non-interference in their internal affairs. It is a position which greatly advances the cause of peace and stability in international relations," the Vice-President stated.

Touching on France's desire to co-operate with Third World countries within the framework of the North-South dialogue, Vice-President Naraine told Madame La Fontaine:

"It is our hope that the spirit to which you referred and the efforts now being undertaken in several fora, will eventually result in social justice for the peoples of the developing countries."

PANEL EXAMINES MACHINERY TO GALVANIZE ECONOMY

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 17 Mar 83 p 5

[Text] "BUDGET Series 83" panellists have made the point that the specific facilitating mechanisms detailed in the 1983 budget speech are designed to enhance the effectiveness of Guyana's economic machinery.

Budget Series 83" is a weekly programme of the Guyana Broadcasting Corporation moderated by Prince Maison and this week's panel comprised Haslyn Parris, chairman of the Board of the State Planning Commission, Roy Ibbott, head of the Public Sector Management Division, and Edgar Heyliger, Commissioner of Inland Revenue.

Cde Parris told the panel that most of the six facilitating arrangements are expected to be in place by the end of this month.

The arrangements are designed to:

- Stimulate greater efficiency in the system by closing obvious loopholes;
- Bring about structural changes in the existing system and allow the pursuit of efficiency in the areas of production and export;
- Remove the disincentives to individual and corporate savings;
- To provide incentives to individual and corporate savings;
- To enhance the co-ordinating of plan implementation and
- To enhance revenue collections to support the national thrust.

The panel agreed that the present spending pattern is "topsy-turvy" with the bulk of Central Government expenditure being eaten up by administrative costs. It was revealed that the government expends an average of 460 million dollars on administrative matters.

Dr. Ibbott observed that an urgent reallocation of expenditure is needed for the promotion of industrial development. He also noted that the reallocating of expenditure will remove some of the duplication of resources and services at present provided by a number of ministries.

He noted that many activities by ministries do not lead to the national thrust in agriculture and industry.

In his 1983 budget speech, Vice-President for Economic Planning and Finance, Desmond Hoyte, explained that the government plans "to set up a system of foreign exchange accounts to facilitate the importation of needed spares and inputs by operations in selected sectors which are pivotal to the export thrust and whose per-

formance clearly accords with the policy objectives."

However the panel noted that before the implementation of the system, several issues have to be resolved.

These issues include:

- The setting of reasonable proportions of foreign exchange allocations, based on the fact that there are direct and indirect imports. For example, electricity is a direct import for the GEC, but an indirect one for a manufacturer.
- How much foreign exchange in "hard" currency must be allocated to the Caricom region.
- How to guard the economy against persons and agencies which may be tempted to divert their foreign exchange allocations to areas other than for which they have been requested.
- Which industries must the system begin with. One suggestion is to begin with "the fast starters" those industries which will earn quick returns. But how

will such a decision affect those industries with long term plans that will earn far more foreign exchange than the "fast starters."

This year, the panel observed, several measures will be put into place to remove the tax disincentive to encourage greater productivity, and at the same time encourage both individual and corporate savings.

For example, no individual will be required to pay more than 50 per cent of his chargeable income in taxes. Formerly, some persons found themselves in a position where they have had to pay 70 per cent of their chargeable income in taxes.

In addition, the panel said, schemes will be instituted to allow tax deductible contributions to be made from personal income for savings for individual retirement income, house building or home acquisition and savings based on deferred income.

(GNA)

CSO: 3298/510

GUYANA

PPP STATEMENT LAMENTS CRIME WAVE, PROPOSES POLICE REFORMS

Nine-Point Plan

Georgetown MIRROR in English 6 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] The People's Progressive Party in a week-end statement, has noted that crime is gripping the jugular of the nation in a fearful manner. Armed outrages have become virtually routine matters in urban and rural areas, bringing about the loss of life and property to the victims at the hands of savage gangsters. The statement reads on:

The PPP feels that it is inevitable that the crime rate is rising, because the regime has not been able to properly and efficiently manage the sagging economy, and has been making a mess of the art of government for 18 years now. Primarily it is the economy which is generating the most actual and potential criminals, and unless it is speedily rectified this nation will be swamped in crime, corruption, vice, prostitution, delinquency, bribery, fraud and other assorted anti-social tendencies and practices.

The other major generator of crime is the political crisis engulfing the society where a barefaced minority anti-democratic party has foisted itself (with help from Anglo-American imperialism and electoral fraud) onto the backs of the Guyanese people. Such a ruling party cannot establish standards of morality, honesty and decency.

The PPP has observed that many of the armed outrages are carried out by persons having close liaison with the PNC. Most of those engaged in embezzlement, large scale bribery, and corruption are either members or fellow travellers of the ruling party. Some of them as arraigned in court are seen clearly to be PNC placemen in high office.

Many PNC activists are armed, having been provided with hand-guns for purely partisan political purposes bordering on terrorism...an on-going hangover from the turbulent 1960s. This period was when the PNC, the rightists, the racists, the profiteers, the exploiters, the CIA, and British Intelligence ran in the same wolf-pack against the PPP government. These elements must be disarmed in the interest of social peace and progress.

The crime victims (a pattern has clearly been set in the series of armed hold-ups) on the other hand, find great difficulty in obtaining arms for defensive purposes. Guns are coming over the frontiers and could be obtained on the parallel market.

It is significant that the vast majority of criminals are youths in their teens or early 20s. Since the youths constitute the majority of the Guyanese population, it means that they are obviously an alienated stratum and see no future for themselves in the present PNC scheme of things. Many even resort in desperation to planting marijuanna for a "living" instead of food crops, thereby contributing to greater moral degeneracy in the society.

The PPP therefore urges the PNC regime to:

- 1) Enact at once the anti-corruption law.
- 2) Train and arm Vigilante Groups to enable them to combat armed gangsters.
- 3) Purge the police force of all elements who may be found consorting or collaborating with criminals or committing crimes.
- 4) Overhaul the recruiting and training policies of the Police Department.
- 5) Provide adequate transportation and communications facilities for the police force; pay decent salaries, better risk allowances and other meaningful incentives to encourage anti-crime sleuths to perform their dangerous tasks with higher morale and less fatalities.
- 6) Rectify the malfunctioning economy, desist from wholesale sackings of workers, pay unemployment relief to the jobless, and find jobs for the unemployed and school leavers.
- 7) Desist from persecuting the indigent, the aged, the disabled and the needy by arbitrarily booting them off the Social Security Roll or axing them from the roster of Old Age Pensions.
- 8) Clear the urban and rural slums by first building adequate numbers of low cost rental apartments for workers, and then moving them into same in an organised and just manner. Slum conditions are a breeding ground for crime, vice and anti-social tendencies.
- 9) Adopt firm measures against praedial larceny, noting that crime has a negative impact on agricultural production and industrial entrepreneurship. Thousands of Guyanese are quitting the country for safer shores. They include Guyana's best farmers and most industrious workers.

Public Demonstrations

Georgetown MIRROR in English 13 Mar 83 p 1

[Excerpts] Seeking to galvanise action against the violent crime surge in Guyana, the PPP recently staged a number of picketing demonstrations at police stations in the country. The reaction of the police commanders differed, as the demonstrations appeared to have taken them by complete surprise. While some permitted the demonstration in a few cases the protestors were harassed and dispersed, their placards seized and their leaders detained in the police station. In all cases a letter on behalf of the residents of the community was handed over to the officer-in-charge, while leaflets were widely distributed.

At most of the police stations the officers in charge were cooperative and told the delegation which handed over the letter that they were handicapped by poor or no transportation, and by lack of personnel and equipment. The major police complaint was for transportation.

Protests took place at the police stations located at Beterverwagting, Leonora, Albion, Blaumont, Mibicuri, Reliance, and in Georgetown.

On Saturday March, 5 when build up and detained PPP Organiser Mike Persaud. He was released 90 minutes later after strong protests were made to Home Affairs Minister Jeffery of the awkward significance of his police officers smashing up anti-crime demonstrations, even while crime and murders are widespread, and government and top-level police officers are calling for action against crime, and for public co-operation with the police. Mr. Collymore also reminded the Minister that top police officers have been openly advising the public to form vigilante groups to help combat crime. The Minister undertook to look into the incident and to secure the release of Mr. Persaud.

Temporary arrests had also taken place at Blaumont.

The letter submitted to the commanders said in part: "We strongly demand that urgent and vigorous action be taken by you to put an end to the high rate of crime which plagues our area at present. We specifically call upon you to ensure that residents are assisted by the police force in carrying out vigilante work through the following measures:

- 1) The training of members of vigilante groups in methods of combatting crime.
- 2) The allocation of arms in an organised manner to vigilante groups.
- 3) The presence of armed policemen to assist the vigilante groups in carrying out their tasks effectively. Such policemen should enjoy the confidence of the community."

This matter of a crime surge was also brought up in the National Assembly during the general budget debate in February 1983 by PPP Home Affairs spokesman Collymore. There was no response from the government side.

Statement on Vigilante Groups

Dearorgetown, 10th March 1983 p.1

(cont.) The Party, the Government's mainstay, has given its views on how crime can be effectively combatted. The statement follows:

The People's Progressive Party categorically rejects the insinuation contained in an article carried by New Nation, organ of the PNC, last week on the crime situation. The gist of the article suggests that the PPP is responsible for the crime situation, which is a ludicrous conclusion. The PNC must not make the PPP the scapegoat for its failures, fallacies and foibles and must fully shoulder the blame for the crime surge engulfing Guyana.

The New Nation article is a lame response to the country-wide anti-crime protest demonstrations launched by the PPP at police stations. The PPP cannot ignore the factor of police inefficiency in combatting crime and corruption. In and out of Parliament the Party has been consistently agitating for increased police efficiency rather than a bigger police force. A bigger police force does not necessarily mean lower crime.

Between 1970-1982, the police Establishment swelled from 2,289 to 3,598 persons, a 57.1% hike. The peak was reached in 1981 at 3,687 persons. Between 1970-1983 the police vote rose from \$7.7 million to \$38.4 million, an increase of 398.7%, with the 1983 figure representing 82% labour and the rest capital-infrastructure. This shows that 82% of its expenditures go towards employment costs. Clearly, therefore, not enough is being spent on vehicles and equipment which are essential for combatting crime.

The PPP does not criticise the force "when it legitimately carries out its duties". The Party however is against summary executions at point blank range. The Party advocates a suitable armed anti-crime squad backed up by reliable crime intelligence and assisted by community-based vigilante groups, also armed and trained to deal with gun-totting gangsters.

The PPP openly urges public co-operation with the police in fighting crime. It is the PNC which so fears the people that it disarms them, starves them, abuses them and sacks them wholesale. The Party urges that there should be opposition representation on the Police Service Commission.

The PPP does not condone or encourage contraband trade which is being encouraged by the regime's stupid import ban policies and large scale sackings of workers. Firearms can be obtained on the "parallel market" but it is noted that when gangsters are caught with guns, they are rarely (if ever) charged under the draconian National Security Act, which appears to be reserved for the PNC's political critics only. This discriminatory policy clearly encourages the armed thieves, rapists, killers and drug pushers.

What New Nation dramatically failed to mention was that the PPP has expressly stated that the appalling economic shambles in Guyana generates criminals. As the situation therefore worsens, crime will grow.

It is the PPP's view that in order to combat crime effectively, the economy must work properly; there must be full employment; the import-ban policy must be scrapped; police morale must be raised; political interference with police duties must end; police recruitment procedures must be overhauled; rotten elements in the police force must be weeded out and above all, there must be democratic practices in the society including an end to rigged elections.

CSO: 3298/510

GOVERNMENT DENIES PPP CHARGES OF HEALTH CRISIS IN REGION 3

Georgetown MIRROR in English 13 Mar 83 p 3

[Text] A PPP motion seeking to improve the deteriorating health situation in Region 3 was voted down by the PNC built-in majority at the recent statutory meeting of the Regional Council. Moved by Komal Chand, the motion noted:

- 1) inadequate numbers of medical personnel, insufficient drugs and equipment.
- 2) shortage of personnel and other requirements forced the closure of the West Demerara General Hospital at Best.
- 3) inadequate intake of calorie-protein in daily meals, is giving rise to malnutrition among pregnant women, children and adults.
- 4) many children of school age who attend school are thus unable to absorb their lessons.

The motion called on the Council to urge the central government to take immediate remedial measures.

In the heated debate which ensued, the PPP Councillors referred to the situation at Leguan, where there is no doctor, only a medex and a serious drug shortage. In the entire West Demerara there are only 2 GMOS to serve a population of 90,000. Out of the 2 GMOS one went on leave in November-December and only one is left.

They pointed out that it is essentially red tape which is preventing the General Hospital from functioning. There are now 3 doctors at the Hospital apart from one doctor who looks after TB patients at the institution. A supply of drugs was recently received at the Hospital from patrons in Canada to help out the situation.

It was also pointed out that at the Best Hospital there is no mortuary. When patients die, the corpse is dumped on the bare floor of a building without doors and with broken down walls. Quite recently the corpse of a girl was left there. Later it was found that dogs had bitten off the nose, hands, ears, and had also made off with the eyes.

The PNC Councillors defended the regime with condemnation and asserted without batting an eye that there is no malnutrition in Guyana, no shortage of drugs, and that there is an adequate number of doctors and other medical personnel. In other words they spoke glowingly of the medical service obtainable in Guyana.

CSO: 3298/510

MECHANICAL DOWN-TIME CUTS SUGAR OUTPUT BELOW TARGET

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 13 Mar 83 pp 8-9

(Text)

SUGAR production which has only reached the level of 77.6 per cent of the week's estimate continued to be marred by factory operational problems and unsatisfactory yields. The total factory mechanical down-time recorded for the week was 307 hours.

The production attainment for the week was 8 215 tons sugar against an estimate of 10 585 tons.

The continued general satisfactory performance due mainly to the above factors has now caused a shortfall of 17 per cent of the crop estimate of 63,0250 tons sugar to date. The actual crop achievement was 52,505 tons at week ending 83-03-12.

The estates in the Berbice Region continue to perform satisfactory while only two of the six estates in Demerara can be said to have achieved acceptable performance levels.

Skeledon with an achievement of 1,005 tons sugar or 106.8 per cent of the estimate of 950 tons was the only estate to earn a placement on the Corporation's Honours Roll.

However, Albion PM, Rose Hall, Blairmont Diamond and Uitvlugt have all been singled out for creditable performance with individual production achievement in excess of 80 per cent of their respective targets for the week.

The leading estates on the Honours Roll so far are Skeledon - 6 achievements, Albion PM and Blairmont - 5 achievements and Rose Hall and Enmore - 4 achievements each.

Meanwhile, Guysucu's Chairman, Harold Davis, continued his first crop tour of estates, visiting Skeledon and Blairmont locations during the week.

Both of these production units have undertaken extensive "Other Crops" cultivation.

Cde. Davis expressed satisfaction with the progress in aquaculture at Blairmont.

He observed that the 1500 acres under rice cultivation at Manarabisi on the Skeledon location where harvesting of the first crop was started, were doing well despite the difficult weather conditions.

PUBLIC SERVICE MINISTRY DESCRIBES REGIONAL OFFICER ROLES

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 16 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

PERMANENT
Secretary of the Public Service Ministry (PSM) Joyce Sinclair told officers of the Pomeroon-Supenaam region that there was a need for greater human understanding and an awareness of the problems experienced both by administrators and workers.

Cde Sinclair said that many of the problems facing the administrators and workers were due to the lack of understanding of the regional system.

She disclosed that work is being done by the PSM on the clarification of the roles of the officers who will be working in the various Regions.

The Permanent Secretary was addressing the officers at a joint meeting of the Public Service Ministry

and the Guyana Public Service Union, at the regional office at Anna-Regina.

During the meeting Regional Chairman, Kenneth Hopkins, called for unity at all levels so that the Regional administration could meet its targets.

He said one of the major problems experienced since the introduction of the regional system is the reluctance of some of the officers at the central level to delegate responsibilities to those in the Regions.

Among other issues raised at the meeting were the need for adequate river and land transport, frequent visits from central government officials, better incentive schemes and proper system of promotions and allowances (GNA).

CSO: 3298/511

BRIEFS

GUYMINE CHANGES--In an attempt to support the concept of responsibility, accountability and the achievement of success within GUYMINE, a number of organisational changes have been made, a Guymine release said Monday. Cde Jimmy Kranenburg has been appointed Operations Head. He will report directly to the Chairman and C.E.O. Cde Dustan Barrow and will be responsible for operations and maintenance. Also, three General Managers have been appointed. They are Cde Phillip Yeung who will be responsible for the operations and maintenance at Linden; Cde Mike Davis for maintenance operations at Everton and Kwakwani and Cde Steve Bovell who will be responsible for maintenance and services. These General Managers will report directly to Cde Kranenburg. Also in the re-adjusted structure are the Engineering Research and Development and the Production Engineering Divisions which will be headed by Cdes Sim Hinds and Brian Ralph respectively. They too will report to Cde Kranenburg. The bulletin further states that until further notice, the Administration Group will continue to be headed by Cde Walter Melville and Finance by Cde Marlene Williams. The Production Support Systems Group will now be called the Support Systems Group and will be made up of the Management Systems and Material Management Divisions. Cde Keith Byrne will be in charge. Cdes Williams, Melville and Byrne will report to Cde. Barrow. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 23 Mar 83 p 4]

PPP ON DEFENSE COMMISSION--Two new persons have been appointed to the National Civil Defence Commission. They are Cdes. Cyril Belgrave and Kissoon Sahadeo of the People's Progressive Party. The appointments now bring to 18 the number of persons on the commission. Chairman of the commission is Cde Cammie Ramsaroop, Vice-President for State and Party Relations. Members on the commission include the Minister of Health, Dr. Richard Van West Charles as Deputy Chairman, the Commissioner of Police, Commandant of the People's Militia, Chief Fire Officer, Leader of the United Force Party, and the Chief Hydraulics Officer. Other members are Reggie Butler of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, Ivor Robinson, Neil Isaacs, Chico Bebarr, Rena Barnwell, Lucile Romeo, Pat Dial, Hashim Hack and Regan Rodrigues. The Civil Defence Commission was formed in May 1982 and has, as one of its responsibilities, the preparation and maintenance of a national disaster awareness and disaster preparedness programme.--(GNA). [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 23 Mar 83 p 8]

JAIL FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL--A senior Government officer who embezzled \$29,000 from the Government was yesterday sentenced to six months' imprisonment

by Berbice Magistrate Christendant Molai at the No 51 Magistrates Court. The magistrate imposed the sentence on Shabeeral Kassim, former Agricultural Officer of Springlands, after he pleaded guilty to the charge. Imposing the sentence Magistrate Molai spoke out against the prevalence of the offence in government departments. Kassim, who paid over eight thousand dollars, told the court he could not raise the remainder of the money and spoke about some of his problems. He had committed the offence between 1977 and 1981.--(GNA). [Text] [Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 13 Mar 83 p 16]

MESSAGE TO GRENADA--Acting President, Cde Ptolemy Reid has said that Guyana will continue to explore opportunities for maximising joint efforts with Grenada for the benefit of their two peoples. A congratulatory message sent by Cde Reid to Sir Paul Schoon, Governor General of Grenada, on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the People's Revolutionary Government in office, today March 13, reads. The government and people of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana are pleased to extend warmest greetings and good wishes to the Government and people of our sister-nation, Grenada, as she commemorates the successes of her revolution." "As member states of the Caribbean community and other wider international organisations, we continue to explore opportunities for maximising our joint efforts and of building upon our traditional friendship for the mutual benefit of our peoples." "In availing myself of this proud occasion to reiterate Guyana's commitment to developing closer co-operative relations with Grenada, I would also wish to convey to your Excellency my further good wishes for your personal well-being." (GNA) [Text] [Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 13 Mar 83 p 9]

WEAPONS CRACKDOWN--The police have launched a country-wide campaign aimed at reducing the incidence of crime. As a result they have searched a number of people leaving the late cinema shows in Georgetown during the past 72 hours and have taken away more than 30 knives and other weapons. (Some in picture). These people will be brought before the court during this week. [Text] [Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 13 Mar 83 p 1]

BREAD RAIDS--Georgetown, Sun., (Cana)--Guyana's "Catholic Standard" newspaper has reported that police made a series of raids on city markets and other places where bread was being exposed for sale and seized a large number of loaves. "Charges have been brought under the price control regulations against a number of venders," the organ of the Roman Catholic Church here said. Raids have also been carried out on a number of bakeries and flour seized. "Commissioner of Police Lloyd Barker emphasised that the seizing of bread had no connection with getting people to use rice flour," the "Standard" said. Bread retails here at exorbitant prices because of a government ban on flour imports. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 28 Mar 83 p 5]

SMUGGLING CHARGES--Georgetown, Guyana, Sunday (CANA)--Guyana police have charged leading local businessman Toolsie Persaud, his brother David Persaud and an employee Ameer Ali, for knowingly dealing in goods to evade Customs duties. David Persaud and Ali pleaded not guilty when taken before principal magistrate Mr. Desmond Burch Smith, and were each placed on \$1,000 bail with a surety in like sum. The matter will come up for hearing on April 21. Toolsie Persaud did not appear in court. The goods include 149 bags of wheaten

flour, four bags of split peas, 50 pounds of salt, cereal, batteries, butter, vehicle spare parts, baby foods, 296 car tyres, 347 tyre tubes and four cartons of whiskey. A pilot of Air Services Limited, Eon Freitas was placed on \$1 000 bail when he appeared before the same magistrate charged with breaching the Customs Act. He is accused of knowingly concerned in dealing with water pumps, motor vehicle spares, motor tyres, crash helmets, pressure cookers, outboard accessories and other articles. The charge stemmed from the seizure of an aircraft at Timehri last Saturday. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 28 Mar 83 p 12]

CSO: 3298/512

BAUXITE OFFICIAL ANALYZES INDUSTRY'S CURRENT DECLINE

London THE CARIBBEAN & WEST INDIES CHRONICLE in English No 1572, Feb/Mar 83
pp 22-23

[Text] Jamaica's economic recovery is being impeded by the poor performance of its vital bauxite industry at a time of serious market weakness. The problem is analyzed by Carlton Davis, Director of the Jamaica Bauxite Institute.

The volume of bauxite and alumina production in Jamaica is determined by factors within and without Jamaica.

In respect of the factors within Jamaica, apart from the political and labour relations climate, they are principally (in order of magnitude) the costs associated with (1) Oil, (2) Capacity of operation, (3) The bauxite levy imposed by the government, (4) Wages and salaries, (5) Caustic soda.

As far as oil is concerned, the matter is virtually outside the control of government. First, there is the price (which is externally determined) and second, there is the efficiency of its use. Both have worked adversely against the Jamaican Industry. For example, the price moved from an average of 9.55 dollars (US) per barrel in 1974 to some 27.05 dollars (US) in 1981. As far as use goes, the alumina plants in Jamaica averaged some 3.1 barrels per tonne of alumina in 1981 compared with a realisable 2.2 barrels or even less per tonne.

Translated into dollars, the effects of oil price and inefficient oil use have resulted in the cost of oil for producing a tonne of alumina in Jamaica moving from slightly above the levy in 1974 to more than twice the levy in 1981.

There is a clear case for the companies to become more oil efficient.

At the 1981 oil price, a lowering of energy use by 0.9 of a barrel per tonne would result in a saving of

some 25 dollars (US) per tonne — more than one-half the levy of that year.

To be fair, the companies have been making efforts in this direction, although it should be said that with one possible exception this is not

being done with the urgency we would have liked.

Further, it has been indicated that incentives would be considered for meaningful investments to reduce energy consumption and lower energy costs.

The capacity factor is often overlooked, but it is an important determinant in the cost of production. A company which, for whatever reason, chooses to operate at less than one-fifth of its capacity (as is the case of one operation) will face severe cost consequences.

The government company Jamaica Bauxite Mining Ltd is now facing such a consequence because its major partner in one joint venture has cut its operating rate to half capacity.

In respect of the bauxite levy and the cost of local wages and salaries, two points must be made: (1) A levy rate was renegotiated in 1979 which (depending on production) resulted in a lowering of the 1974 rate of 7.5 per cent to between 5 and 6 per cent.

(2) There was a massive devaluation of the remain at the same level (in US dollar terms) as it was in 1977 — in spite of negotiations in 1978 and in 1981 for 'increased' emoluments.

In addition to the above, the government has granted levy rebates in particular circumstances and waived the duties on caustic soda and other raw materials and equipment used in the manufacture of bauxite and alumina.

In spite of these significant reductions of our costs, production in Jamaica by the companies (sale to the US Government is exempted because this is an extraordinary arrangement): (a) stagnated between 1977 and 1981, (b) declined dramatically in 1982, and (c) will decline even more in 1983.

It is my considered view that external factors have been overwhelmingly responsible for the industry's current malaise.

First, there is the recession which everyone concedes is the worst since the Second World War. Second, North America, which has been our principal market (71 per cent of total shipments between 1974-1981) since the inception of our industry, has been declining in world terms as a primary aluminium producer.

Year	North American percentage of 'western' world aluminium production
1950	79
1960	70
1970	57
1980	45
1985 (estimate)	41

Third, within North America, the areas of particular advantage to Jamaica — eg the US Gulf Coast — are facing near devastation of their industry. For example:

(1) Reynolds' Point Comfort smelter (which has been fed with alumina made largely from Jamaican bauxite by the neighbouring alumina plant) is closed and quite conceivably may never be re-opened.

(2) Alcoa's Point Comfort smelter is permanently closed.

(3) Rever's Scottsboro smelter is closed.

(4) Kaiser's Chalmette smelter is operating at about 21 per cent of capacity.

There are other examples but those are sufficient to illustrate what is happening in an area important for the Jamaican industry.

Another factor is that several countries where smelter capacities are being established are also developing their own bauxite deposits thereby depriving countries like Jamaica of market opportunities. Examples are Venezuela, Cameroons, and Brazil.

Apart from these effects, it is important for the public to know that an important factor which has been affecting our level of production is the 'take or pay' commitment entered into by the companies in other bauxite-producing areas.

I will cite one case to illustrate. In the big Boke mine in Guinea where Alcoa and Alcan, among others, are involved, the companies are obliged to take certain minimum tonnages (a narrow lower limit is allowed) or pay for it.

What this means is that in a recessionary situation such as we are now undergoing, the companies have to fulfil their commitments in that operation and divide the rest of their requirements among their other sources. (A similar arrangement applies to the Trombetas mine in Brazil).

In other words, there could very well be a situation whereby Jamaica invites the companies to take our bauxite for nothing (a policy that would please some) and find that the invitation is not accepted because of constraints such as the 'take or pay' arrangements which they have elsewhere.

What I have said (and the half has not been told) indicates a complex situation with which we have to grapple.

The need to diversify our industry markets as well as ownership patterns, which was recognised when we began to study the industry more seriously in 1974, is a strategy that has to be pursued.

It has taken on greater urgency now. The recent signing of a contract for the sale of bauxite to the USSR is a case in point.

Energy efficiency (and reduction of energy costs), possibly by conversion to coal, is another.

As for the levy, we have to balance a whole complex of factors, including, importantly, the fact that in a normal year it earns in net terms about twice the entire tourist industry.

MONETARY FACTORS MAY AFFECT BANANA EXPORTS TO BRITAIN

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 30 Mar 83 pp 1, 15

[Text] Local bananas for the U.K. export market may have to go on the parallel market or be subsidised, because of the declining value of the pound sterling relative to local currency, banana executive, Dr. Marshall Hall, said yesterday.

Dr. Hall, who is managing director of the Jamaica Banana Producers' Association and chairman of the Eastern Banana Estates Company Limited, was addressing the weekly luncheon meeting of the Rotary Club of St. Andrew at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel in New Kingston.

Dr. Hall stressed the importance of increasing productivity, stating that in order for the banana industry to maintain viability export tonnage should be in the region of ten tons per acre rather than the present situation of roughly below one ton per acre.

High yield per acre could only be achieved if the farmers got infrastructure at a cost they could afford, he said. Dr. Hall expressed the hope that the some 5,000 acres of Government-controlled banana cultivation in St. Thomas would lead the way and reflect high yield per acre.

Already there was indication of this happening, he said. Expectations at the Eastern Banana Estates Company cultivation at Duckenfield in St. Thomas was for export tonnage to be 15 tons per acre, he said.

Commenting on the problem facing the industry with the fall in the value of the pound sterling relative to the local dollar, Dr. Hall said although the pound sterling price of bananas had increased, the value of sterling had however fallen relative to the local dollar, from a rate of exchange of over \$4 in 1980-1981 to about \$2.70 now.

Dr. Hall then suggested that bananas may have to go on the parallel market to be subsidised in order to maintain viability.

Turning to loans for banana growers, Dr. Hall said that certainly the rate existing in the commercial banking system could not be afforded. Declaring

that the rate of interest was a predicament facing the banana farmer, Dr. Hall said that this and the question of financing was something which had to be addressed promptly.

Dr. Hall said that in the quest for higher productivity it might become necessary to reduce the acreage of banana cultivation. As to what farmers would do as a result of this, Dr. Hall said that some may choose to move out of farming.

The Eastern Banana Estates Company would be importing a new variety of plantains which would be more hardy than bananas with the hope that banana farmers who opted to move out would be interested in cultivating them.

Banana growers faced with the problem of reduced acreage could also increase sales to neighbouring countries, Dr. Hall said, stating that the banana company of which he is a director had received purchase requests from Trinidad before the trade "fracas".

Despite the competition and the distance, Dr. Hall said he believed that sales could be made to Trinidad. Banana growers also had the important role of producing for the local market.

Dr. Hall, referring to the "very poor" state of production in the banana industry, said that production was in the region of 22,000 tons last year and it was hoped to realise close to 30,000 tons this year. There was however a guaranteed United Kingdom marker of 150,000 tons, he said, stressing the need for increased production and productivity.

Clearly "upward trends" were there, Dr. Hall said, and the banana company and country could "get there" if the problems were solved.

CSO: 3298/513

METROPOLITAN AREA COST OF LIVING RAW DATA**Cost of Beans**

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 2 Feb 83 'Metropoli' supplement p 9

[Text] It looks like it is now time to speculate in beans and unscrupulous merchants have begun to hide beans in their shops.

In the suburbs of Naucalpan, Tlalnepantla and Atizapan (zone) NZT a kilogram of beans of the so-called common variety is sold at 40 to 50 pesos despite the official price of 28 pesos.

Other products such as milk, cooking oil, Carnation canned milk, etc., also are objects of speculation and increases without proper authorities bothering to issue fines, charged Jesus Alvarado Bonilla, head of COR [Workers Revolutionary Confederation] in the State of Mexico.

These practices, he pointed out, are not only taking place in supermarkets, but in business warehouses, selfservice stores, in miscellaneous small shops, and other commercial stores on the periphery of the Federal District, especially Nezahualcoyotl, Ecatepec, Naucalpan, Tlalnepantla, Tultitlan, Coacalco, Huixquilucan, Los Reyes la Paz, Villa Nicolas Romero, etc.

Milk, 27-50 Pesos

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 3 Feb 83 'Metropoli' supplement p 9

[Text] A new milk price increase has occurred in the bakeries of selfservice stores in Commercial Mexicanos, Aurrera, Gigante, Blanco and Sumesa: 27 pesos instead of the official price of 24.50.

The authorized price has collapsed as there are examples where milk sold in dairy barns on the outskirts, is recording increases up to 50 pesos because it is rumored to be "pure milk."

This reporter yesterday visited numerous retailers in different neighborhoods, and the following information is the result of that survey.

Milk "second grade" is priced between 30 and 35 pesos in dairy barns.

Milk in disposable containers - tetrapak - costs 27 pesos in the Lena, El Globo and Elizondo bakeries, same as in the retail stores of Aurrera, Commercial Mexicana, Blanco and Gigante.

Dairymen as well as merchants from supermarkets, bakeries and retail grocery stores offer milk at prices as if it were home delivered.

Milk, Other Dairy Products

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 9 Feb 83 'Metropoli' supplement p 9

[Text] Cuautitlan, Mex, 8 Feb--The dairymen of Cuautitlan zone imposed a price increase on "raw" milk. They increased to 26 pesos milk which cost 22.50 last week.

The charge was made by a group of housewives from the area who added that they received the unpleasant surprise only yesterday which threatens the economy of the consumers of the area, mainly peasants and working-class families.

The increase according to what the complainers affirmed was made without the authorization of SECOFIN. Ranchers claim that the increase is necessary to prevent the complete bankruptcy of this industry in the little that remains in the river basis of Cuautitlan.

The Cuautitlan cowherders affiliated with the Association of Cattle Owners, have taken these measures as a result of the severe crisis that they are facing, as well as for the elevated costs of fodder, animal medicine, worker salary increases and repairs.

The cowherders say that before they send their animals to be slaughtered at the stockyard, they favored a milk increase of 3.50 pesos more a liter. The increase, they said also affected cream, butter and cheeses produced in their own businesses.

Bread Prices

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 9 Feb 83 'Metropoli' supplement p 8

[Text] Naucalpan, Mex, 8 Feb--The price of white bread - packaged and loaf - rose to 2.00 pesos in the majority of bakeries and authorized retail stores in the municipalities of Naucalpan despite the official price of only 1.00 pesos.

The charge was made by labor leaders and tenant farmers headed by Jesus Alvarado Bonilla, Raul Primitivo Tobon Camacho, Ernesto Roa Cortes, Gumersindo Ruiz Moreno, America Abaroa Zamora, Maurilio Rivera Salinas, Enrique Carreno Cruz, Manual Mexa and others.

They complained that despite statements by the spokesman of the National Chamber of the Bread Industry and Related Products, Albino Sanchez Tiela, who stated on the 3rd that the price of packages and loaves would not rise, what is certain is that in most of the bakeries in the popular suburbs and residential areas of Naucalpan it is sold at 2 pesos.

In these circumstances labor leaders and tenant farmers pointed out that white bread shot up 100 percent from its official price, amidst protests from housewives and consumers in general.

They revealed that in the majority of shops the supply of loaves has vanished because they are sold at a greater price to the proprietors of pastry shops, cafeterias, restaurants and soda fountains.

Water Sales

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 24 Feb 83 'Metropoli' supplement p 9

[Text] Ecatepec, Mex 22 Feb--"Barrel sellers" and "muleteers" of Gustavo A. Madero -- from the same municipality -- sell them barrels of water for 50 pesos (25 centavos) a liter in suburbs and popular areas of Ecatepec.

Of the million and a half inhabitants of the region, approximately 500,000 residents in the Zones Four and Five of ex Vaso de Tezcoco -- south and east zones of Ecatepec -- are victims of "muleteers" and private barrel carriers who sell them barrels of water for 40 to 50 pesos without the municipal government getting involved or initiating an exhaustive investigation to record those who might resell the vital liquid in this season.

In villages, suburbs and divisions, stated a group of neighbors from the divisions Paseo de San Agustin and Ciudad Azteca, there are private barrel carriers who bring water from the branch Gustavo A. Madero -- La Providencia Suburb -- and sell it at whatever price they please.

They demanded, consequently, the elimination of the "muleteers" and private barrel carriers who raise the price of water, above all in the most needy zones of the suburbs.

Fish, Shellfish

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 28 Feb 'Metropoli' supplement p 9

[Text] Seafood produce in markets and unauthorized retailers, is sky high.

A survey carried out in the public markets of Naucalpan Tlalnepantla and Atizapan (Zone NZT), permitted this reporter to verify the high prices that fish and shellfish in general are recording.

A kilogram of seabass and braize fillet is sold at 800 pesos. A kilogram of grouper, that on occasion is obtained for 200 pesos, rose to 630 pesos.

Striped mullet and sawfish varieties, the fish most popularly consumed are fluctuating between 480 and 500 pesos a kilogram.

Mojarra is the cheapest fish at the market and is at this time 360 pesos a kilogram.

Shrimp is priced at 1,500 pesos a kilo in the markets of the towns noted.

These prices were observed in fish stores and authorized retailers in the area, just yesterday at noon.

9989

CSO: 3248/619

FAT, SOL ATTACK NEPOTISM IN TRADE UNIONS

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 12 Feb 83 p 15-A

/Text/ Hundreds of thousands of workers from all over the nation are organized in unions and locals which are virtually the property of the union officials, because, as charged by the Authentic Workers Front (FAT) and the Union of Free Workers (SOL), "It has been a common practice for the general secretaries to pass on their posts to their children."

From the workers' viewpoint, they added, it would be more important to eradicate nepotism from labor unions than from the government itself, because in the unions the practice negates democracy and also amounts to a kind of slavery.

Interviewed separately, Berta Lujan, FAT's information officer, and Alfredo Pantoja Guzman, SOL's coordinator, agreed that nepotism is a phenomenon which has grown principally in CTM /Confederation of Mexican Workers/, where the children of the officials are given concessions by INFONAVIT /Institute of the National Fund for Workers Housing/.

Pantoja Guzman stated, "In CTM, it begins at the very top, with Fidel Velasquez giving important positions to his brother Gregorio and his nephew Luis."

Alfonso Sanchez Madariaga, he added, is another of the CTM leaders who have put their children in positions connected with housing construction, and he mentioned that the secretary general of CTM in Jalisco, Heliodoro Hernandez Loza, has for many years taken turns in elected positions, alternating with his wife.

Both Berta Lujan and Pantoja Guzman said that it is well known that CTM's secretary general in the Federal District, Joaquin Gamboa Pascoe, has provided for his two sons, Armando and Joaquin Gamboa Enriquez, who are directors of sections of the Federal District Workers Federation.

Pantoja emphasized that other unions are not exempt from nepotism, including the Revolutionary Workers Confederation, led by Angel Olivo Solis, whose wife is secretary general of that union in the Federal District. He added that a friend of both of them also holds a union post.

The SOL coordinator stated also that Luis Mayen, secretary general of the National Bread Bakers Union, put his son in the post of life insurance sales coordinator; the workers are obliged to buy the policies.

He noted that Leopoldo Lopez, of the League of Workers Organizations, has a son by the same name whom he made second in command, while Vicente Guerra, director of the National Construction Union, passed on the secretary generalship to his son Ignacio Guerra.

Other cases of nepotism, said Pantoja, are found in service station workers unions and transport unions, in which the present leaders Jorge Echanove and Joaquin del Olmo obtained their posts by inheritance.

11,989
CSO: 3248/608

PEASANTS LEAVE CNC FOR CIOAC

Mexico City EXCELSIOR 10 Feb 83 pp 4-A, 23-A, 29-A

[From "Political Fronts" column by Guillermo C. Zetina]

[Excerpt] In a meeting of the commune at Ocoyoacac, Mexico State, on 5 February 1983, some 3,000 peasants decided to abandon the National Peasant Confederation (CNC) and join CIOAC [Independent Central Organization of Agricultural Workers and Peasants] after accusing their leader, Victor Cervera Pacheco, of lacking the moral authority needed to the union's director.

The Ocoyoacac peasants, feeling betrayed by the agricultural union which formerly represented them, said that Cervera Pacheco manipulated them and used them for primarily political purposes. Also they accused him of being a landowner in the southeast -- Yucatan and Quintana Roo -- and siding with the traditional exploiters of peasants as long as it would preserve his power.

After stating that they would defend their lands to the bitter end if anyone were to attempt to expropriate them, the Ocoyoacac peasants pointed out that the CNC leader has dealings with PAN National Action Party because that party helped him become mayor of Merida and also helped him become a director of the Yucatan Students Federation, a post he used as a platform for coarse criticism of PRI Institutional Revolutionary Party.

11,989
CSO: 3248/608

PRIESTS WITH GOVERNMENT POSTS INTERVIEWED

Fernando Cardenal

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 1 Mar 83 pp 1, 8

[Article by Jose Coronel Urtecho: "A Job According to the Gospel Line"]

[Text] "Both those of us who favor priests remaining in the government and those who favor their resignation do so only for political reasons. (The remaining and the resignation are political matters, and the rest is hypocritical.)"

In Teofilo Cabestrero's book, "Ministers of God, Ministers of the People" (the testimony of three priests with positions in the government of Nicaragua), recently published in Spain, there appears an interview with Father Fernando Cardenal, vice coordinator of the 19 July Sandinist Youth's National Executive Committee, its national secretary for political training and propaganda and member of the Sandinista Assembly.

Fernando Cardenal and the other priests with government posts are accused of having giving up the priesthood for politics, and giving up Christ for Marx, having ambitions for power and, for all these reasons, blindly obeying the Sandinist National Liberation Front and disobeying the Catholic Church.

Father Cardenal, a 49-year old Jesuit, claims that his job in the government does not pose any conflict for him with all the religious training that he has received since the novitiate. He says: "I am carrying out a job which is in complete agreement with my theology, my spirituality and my priesthood, and with the most deepseated of my Christian and human feelings, with my conscience."

Concerning his current role, he remarks: "I have not found in this work that I am doing now (with the Sandinist Youth) the slightest contradiction, inconsistency or conflict of conscience with respect to the guidance that I have had since my training began."

He notes that he joined the Jesuit novitiate because he wanted to save souls as God desires. But later, he realized that the danger of so many people's possibly losing their lives in hell "had already started reaching fulfillment for many, with a hell on earth, namely, the poverty that millions of Latin Americans are suffering." And then he understood that his most urgently needed mission would consist of "service

to the liberation of my nation's poor, to their human, economic, social and political liberation, which is a forerunner and beginning of their total liberation."

The Jesuit community backed his current work completely, work which "is also apostolic endeavor." Previously, when he was assigned the National Literacy Crusade, a few days after the victorious popular uprising, he was gratified to undertake this political endeavor which was intended to start a democratization process that demanded the participation of all the popular masses in Nicaragua's historic activity.

If 51 percent of the population was illiterate, they had to be taught to read and write. How could he fail to feel priestly and religious gratification in that work? "During that entire year devoted to teaching our people to read, I was fully engaged according to the gospel line and the priestly line."

Fernando Cardenal returned to Nicaragua in 1970 as a full-fledged priest, with experience among the poor masses of other countries, with the conviction that he would have to perform acts on behalf of justice and the exploited. Thereafter, he supported the teachers persecuted by the Somoza dictatorship, demanded the release of political prisoners, wrote in newspapers, spoke at public gatherings and came out in favor of the country's liberation.

That was the year of his first contacts with FSLN. He was then acting under the influence of the ideas of Gandhi and Martin Luther King; and he advocated peaceful struggle to such an extent that he took part in hunger strikes, demonstrations, etc.

Upon joining the revolutionary vanguard in 1973, he devoted himself to the struggle in all its forms: legal or illegal, overt and clandestine. He worked with Daniel Ortega, Tomas Borge and Bayardo Arce, members of the FSLN National Directorate, and in particular with Comdr Eduardo Contreras, who was assassinated in 1976. In October 1977, in Costa Rica, he became a member of the "Group of 12," which was starting to work on behalf of the insurrection, so as later to proceed to the final offensive that was to triumph on 19 July 1979.

They Did Not Criticize His Political Role Previously

In June 1976, he traveled to the United States, to testify before Congress regarding Somoza's crimes. He submitted lists of missing, assassinated and tortured persons, all farmers from the mountains where the Sandinist guerrillas and their collaborators were operating. "And in all that time absolutely nothing was ever said to me, nor any objection made to me at all."

Fernando Cardenal recalls that, before undertaking that trip, he had gone to talk with Msgr Obando. Owing to the repercussions that his charges would have on the Church, his bishop was one of the few persons whom he told what he intended to do. "And at no time did he (put up) any objection to my work."

In July 1978, he returned to Nicaragua, then as a member of the "Group of 12," to which Father Miguel D'Escoto also belonged. F. Cardenal comments: "During our visit and during the months from that time until the final insurrection, the archbishop never at any time, either directly or indirectly, said anything that would

impose limits on, or make a comment on what were doing, to indicate that it would not be fitting for us to continue doing it for pastoral, canonical or other reasons."

FSLN Has Not Changed Its Program

Father Fernando Cardenal notes that, upon the victory of the revolution, the priests did not cease their political activity, because it was necessary to undertake immediately the reconstruction and thorough transformation of the entire system and its structures. No one described the positions that they were to fill from that time on as inconsistent or not in keeping with their status as religious and priests.

Subsequently, when the campaign against the presence of priests in the government began, it was claimed that FSLN had changed and betrayed the program for popular revolution, and that the Sandinist shad changed their principles. What happened, according to Father Fernando Cardenal, is that when Somoza and his army fell and FSLN started making the reforms in the government in favor of the poor, "the rich felt their purses threatened."

Cardenal stresses: "And at that very moment they began taking a stand against the Sandinist revolution, claiming that it had betrayed the program. They really only wanted a change of governor, but not in the government system" In short, they were not questioning the revolution's not being a revolution as planned, but rather that it was completely reforming the structures, in order to make Nicaragua a country in which justice and brotherhood would prevail.

An Involuntary Resignation

In June 1981, the high-ranking Church hierarchy gave the priests with positions in the Sandinist government an ultimatum, demanding that they leave them. In the end, they were allowed to continue holding them, on the condition that they would "voluntarily" resign from discharging their priestly duties. Father Fernando Cardenal claims that this pressure was based on "a political view of matters." In the agreement, it was stipulated that this was a voluntary resignation, not a punishment; however, the priest emphasizes: "One feels that as a punishment, it is inevitable that one should consider it such."

The Power and the Priesthood, Christ and Marx

The priests with positions in the Sandinist government have been accused of having ambition for power, of blindly obeying FSLN and disobeying the Church, and of giving up God to follow Marx.

Father Fernando Cardenal stringently underscores each of his responses:

"Any blind obedience is alien to the nature of my life (...), something that I have never practiced even in religious life, and something that no one who is normal would practice, because it is not a human act, much less a religious or Christian one.

"I affirm my obedience to God, to which I have been dedicated in my religious life and the priesthood, as well as my commitment to the people. And I am willing to

die, for the sake of fulfilling this. And there is nothing and no one that can remove me from this. In my view, it is clear that anything else that runs counter to a commitment to the people runs counter to the will of God, and would be a sin.

"Concerning power, I want to be very clear in stating that we do not have power, nor do we control power. We do not order, we do not give instructions; we only serve.

"I can assert categorically that I have not exchanged, am not exchanging and will not exchange Christ and the Gospel for anything or anyone. Jesus Christ with his Gospel and Marx with his science are on two different planes. I don't think it makes sense for anyone to claim that he is exchanging Christ for Galileo, Newton, Einstein or any famous chemist. Well, Marx is on the same plane as they are, and it makes no sense to say that he is replacing Christ.

"What they want is for us to leave the priesthood, or leave the popular revolution, the two things that I feel are profoundly joined in my life, in my faith and in my spirituality. To me, that proposal of dividing the two things would be as ridiculous as a French Christian's being told that he must decide between being a Christian and being French. It is ridiculous to ask one to choose between two things that may be combined. This ridiculous dilemma is being proposed to us as a trick."

Miguel D'Escoto

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 2 Mar 83 p 16

[Text] Father Miguel D'Escoto, minister of interior, is the other person interviewed by Teofilo Cabestrero, whose replies are included in the book entitled "Ministers of God, Ministers of the People" (testimony from three priests in the Nicaraguan revolutionary government), published recently in Spain. In its main subject matter, the book sets forth two opposing movements in the Church: that of the priests who consider themselves obliged to serve God by serving their people, and that of some of the hierarchy, who conceive of the Church's role as dissociated from the concrete struggles of the popular masses.

That hierarchy and other conservative sectors have indicated to the priests with government posts that there must necessarily be a contradiction between the exercise of the latter and that of the priesthood. Father Miguel D'Escoto does not agree with this assertion: "...I cannot conceive of there being a contradiction between being a Christian and being a decent man, between being a priest and being a rational citizen," he emphasizes.

Father D'Escoto was not trained as a diocesan priest; he is essentially a missionary. During his life, he has never worked in a parish, nor has he ever thought that he has failed to fulfill his duties on that account. His previous missionary life prepared him for his present service to the people. Before that, he had traveled far more than he is doing now.

As a missionary, he had covered the entire expanse of Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America, in his capacity as director of the Maryknoll Social Communications

Department, visiting all of its missionaries. Now he is traveling for the cause of peace, justice and dignity for Nicaragua and other nations. D'Escoto puts it thusly: "...the cause to which I have been committed by Christ, in my capacity as a Christian and a missionary priest."

They Called Me a Communist at the Age of 13

Father D'Escoto relates that, at the age of 13, he was struck by seeing people on the streets of Managua seeking food in the garbage. Outside of the Terraza Club there were large barrels containing the leftovers from the previous night's banquets, and one could observe people retrieving them and looking for something to eat. The priest remarks: "I rebelled. At the age of 13 I was called a 'communist' for the first time, because I criticized that injustice."

He also recalls that his parents met and were married in the United States, which is where Miguel was born. When he was over a year old, in 1934, they returned to Nicaragua, a few days after General Sandino's assassination. His father became a diplomat under Somoza.

I Involved My Life With the Poor

Miguel attended primary and secondary school at Catholic institutions in Nicaragua. Later, he went to the United States, where he engaged in intensive training activity. He was first graduated with a degree in philosophy, and later in theology (at Maryknoll), as well as teacher training (New York University) and science, majoring in comparative journalism and political economy (at Pulitzer Institute, Columbia University, New York). That was in 1962.

In the same year, he was ordained a priest and spent a year working as assistant director of the Social Communications Department at Maryknoll, New York. He later spent 6 years with the urban dispossessed in Santiago, Chile, and was subsequently a consultant on the work with them in Brazil and Mexico.

In 1970, he returned to the Social Communications Department as director, for a period of 3 years; but was reelected three times. Before his ordination to the priesthood, everything had been study and theory for him. He had his only experience when he worked for 4 years in Sing Sing prison, where he had good relations with the inmates. In Chile, he worked with the incipient urban residents' organizations, for the purpose of strengthening the defense of the workers and the latter's opportunities for organization. To put it in his own words, "my life was fully involved with the lives of the poor."

In 1975, he came in contact with FSLN, and promoted committees for solidarity with the anti-Somoza struggle in the United States. By 1976, FSLN invited him to participate in that struggle. He was supposed to publicize the real situation of the Nicaraguan people, why they were struggling and why they were doing so with arms.

He notes: "All of that seemed to me to be service compatible with the obligations of anyone who, in addition to being Nicaraguan, has as part of his mission to be a builder of peace, something that demands building justice, because there is no peace without justice." And he adds: "To me, the entire war was a great eucharist,

because there was among all the comrades that willingness to dedicate everything, to dedicate their lives, and not for themselves."

One Had to Have Christian Guts

Father D'Escoto relates that, when he completed that phase, he was helped greatly by his father's last words before dying. The Somoza guardsmen had dynamited parts of his house and that of Sergio Ramirez, and were looking for them. His father was able to reach him by telephone, and told him: "...I want you to know that I am saying another Rosary with your mother (so that you will be steadfast). Do not be afraid of death. And we are asking the Lord (his father said) to let you have Christian guts so as to follow Christ to Calvary if necessary and if it is His will." And he added: "The people cannot be deceived and defrauded again; they have much hope in you. And the only thing that would kill me would be if you were to turn back out of fear of death."

Maryknoll Is an Immense Bulwark of Support

"I have always received and am still receiving wonderful understanding from Maryknoll. Maryknoll has become an immense bulwark of support, of backing and of assistance. All I can say about Maryknoll is that it has acknowledgment and gratitude for the magnanimity and understanding that my congregation and my superiors have maintained toward me."

As for the Nicaraguan Church, Father D'Escoto regrets that the attitude of some of its members is greatly damaging it and its image: "A Church which is surviving in spite of us, because God is great. The worst enemies of the Church have never been outside. They are ourselves, when we order subjugated people to cease their struggle for independence and liberation. They are ourselves, when we back oppressive regimes and bless the armies of those who are going to persecute and kill patriots."

The priest and minister stresses: "The things that I am seeing here have confirmed to me that many people who have become dissociated from the Church do not do so because they are dissociating themselves from Christ, but rather because they are dissociating themselves from a Church which has already dissociated itself from God, by having turned its back on the poor."

Fear of Losing the Priesthood

Father D'Escoto regrets the lack of understanding among some members of the Church, who exclude human, evangelical, ecclesial dialog, and who express themselves with an inflexible authoritarianism which says: "This is so, and it is so because I say so."

D'Escoto comments: "Seeing here that entire obstinacy among a sector of the Church which, in addition to not evangelizing positively, sees everything as negative and sees only blame in others....faced with (such) sad lack of understanding, I have had to consider the possibility that they want to take away our priesthood."

The priests observes in this the historically typical reaction of certain churchmen, when peoples have struggled at crucial times for mankind to build more worthy and more just societies. He emphasizes: "And this is not a process that runs

counter to faith or to God, but quite the contrary: it is an historic process which, regardless of the fact that it has shocked some members of the Church who do not see God in it, is being given an impetus by God as a step toward His Kingdom of justice and peace."

The Hardest and Most Painful Blow in My Life

The struggle on the part of the Church hierarchy to remove the priests from the government was very harsh. At the end, they were given permission to continue in their positions in exchange for making the religious pledge not to celebrate Mass, not even privately. D'Escoto remarks: "To me, that was the hardest and most painful blow in my life." He was in Mexico when he learned about the deal, and his reaction was as he himself describes it: "

"I remember, and I am not ashamed to say so, that I wept a great deal all night. I could not even sleep, and I cried and cried on my pillow. It grieved me very much. But it grieved me particularly because it seemed to me that this would be very detrimental to the Church, because there was too much stringency there. I viewed it almost as meanness, as an excessive amount of punishment for something that I have never considered to be a crime."

Before such a thing would happen, Father D'Escoto celebrated Mass at a place located in his house, and it was even attended by some commanders, where no one saw them, because a bishop had already suggested that "they were going to Church so that others would see them."

From the viewpoint of Father D'Escoto, this decision by the hierarchy is unpatriotic, and represents the interests of the class which has always had the privileges in our society. It is an inconsistent attitude, "of deep fear of history and too much concern over the Church itself, and not over the people."

And he is emphatic in stating: "I believe that what should be most important to the Church is the people for whom our Lord became incarnate, lived, suffered, died and was resurrected. That is its raison d'être, its mission. The Church should not live obsessed by the rights of the Church, but rather by the rights of the people. I do not think that the Church has any right beyond the rights of all the children of God, which are very sacred rights and which must be respected and defended for everyone."

Father D'Escoto claims that he has never been concerned about defending himself from the accusations that have been made against him and the other priests who hold posts in the government. It does pain him and worry him..."to see counterrevolutionary positions rise up to be added to the well-known intentions and actions of the American imperialists, and to see part of the Church join in those anti-people positions."

According to the Nicaraguan minister of God and minister of the people, the concrete essence of his faithfulness to Christ is his faithfulness to the people, "and especially the most oppressed and alienated, and historically exploited."

He stresses: "But I shall always be obedient; however, I shall never betray my conscience for a false obedience."

REVIEW OF ECONOMIC DECLINE, GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS FOR RECOVERY

London THE CARIBBEAN & WEST INDIES CHRONICLE in English No 1572, Feb/Mar 83
Supplement pp iii-iv

[Article by Guy Ellis]

[Text] At the time of Saint Lucia's political independence from Britain four years ago, the island was widely acclaimed as the best-equipped of all the smaller territories of the Eastern Caribbean chain to withstand the economic rigours of nationhood.

That was notwithstanding the effects of the international oil crisis of a half decade earlier which had played havoc with the economy, quadrupling production costs in the industrial and agricultural sectors which, along with tourism, represented the major sources of Saint Lucia's foreign revenues.

From the mid-1960s, Saint Lucia had begun diversifying its economy — then based solely on agriculture — to include tourism and manufacturing. The construction industry too experienced a dramatic boom.

All this paid handsome dividends. So much so that for a full decade ending in 1978, the Gross Domestic Product grew in real terms at an annual average of 10.6 per cent, according to the World Bank.

In 1979, with activity in the construction sector slowing down — which the Bank attributed to labour problems — and agricultural output on the decline, economic growth was reduced to around 4 per cent.

In August 1980, Hurricane Allen devastated Saint Lucia's agricultural and industrial sectors, wiping out completely the vital banana industry. International recession and neglect at home caused by prolonged political problems continued the onslaught.

Today, Saint Lucia's economy lies in ruins with a negative growth rate of 5 per cent, the balance of payments deficit at a staggering EC\$264m and the unemployment level at its highest peak of 27 per cent.

The country's commercial banks are experiencing liquidity problems. Because of the high interest rates prevailing in the United States and other financial markets they are unable to attract any significant inflows of capital.

On the other hand, the island's workforce has continued to enjoy wage and salary settlements of between 20 and 35 per cent annually — considered high in some international financial circles — while price increases, according to official sources, have averaged 15 per cent annually, based on the index of retail prices. To compound it all, productivity all round has declined.

In recent years, the Government has been forced into large scale borrowing to meet such recurrent expenditure as salaries for its workers. Amazingly, this bill has swelled from EC\$22m in 1979 to EC\$56m today, an increase of 163 per cent. Month after month, the Government resorts to borrowing to meet this expenditure, whereas up to 1978-79, local revenues financed the entire recurrent expenditure and contributed to one fifth of the capital budget as well.

It is a serious economic situation that confronts this once bustling little island in 1983. Saint Lucia today is not merely living above its means. It has to beg and borrow to do so as well.

The budget for the current fiscal year totals EC\$208m. The figure for recurrent expenditure is EC\$138.2m, an increase of 36 per cent over the 1981-82 figure. The capital allocation has fallen from EC\$106m to EC\$70.2m.

Prime Minister John Compton, whose previous administrations laid the basis for Saint Lucia's economic development in the last two decades, and who was returned to power last May after three years on the

opposition benches, agrees that the recession, and falling values of the currencies in which the island trades, have played a decisive part in the country's economic downturn.

But he also insists that mismanagement of the economy by the Labour Party Government between the time he left office and his return, was equally devastating.

Presenting his Government's budget to parliament last June, Mr Compton declared: "Our country, which was once held up as the showpiece of development in the Eastern Caribbean, is now relegated as the sick man of the region."

In the 1982 general elections, Mr Compton campaigned on a platform that emphasised his United Workers' Party's ability to effect an economic turnaround. But the task has proved much greater than he anticipated.

In an effort to achieve results, he summoned representatives of the trade union movement and the private sector to the conference table to discuss a Government proposal for the establishment of a tripartite commission on wages, prices, employment and productivity.

He suggested wage and price restraints while promising Government incentives to both parties — to the Unions for establishing proper procedures for the protection of workers and their rights, and to the private sector for productivity gains through appropriate technology and for the creation of additional employment opportunities.

Explained Mr Compton: "Over the last few years, what has been happening in Saint Lucia is that while there has been little growth in production and productivity, large wage settlements have been given and inflation has continued to rise. The political troubles contributed significantly to the failure of Saint Lucia to attract foreign investment, particularly in the manufacturing sector.

"The implications have been far reaching, not only in terms of the failure to create new employment opportunities but also in terms of the general slowdown in economic activity."

It was in the light of these factors, and with the intention of restoring stability in the industrial relations field, that the tripartite commission was proposed. But the main trade unions rejected the idea, urging the Government to shelve it "indefinitely," because, they said, it would not work.

The private sector and employers' organisations, on the other hand, are backing the move. Other unions have agreed to continue the dialogue, the door of which, Mr Compton says, remains open to all.

It is not known whether or how soon the Government proposes to resume the tripartite

talks. Despite the rejection by some of the Unions, Government Ministers have frequently promised that the discussions would continue with those Unions that show interest.

Immediately after the New Year, Mr Compton summoned Parliament to hear a major economic policy speech during which he announced a number of mild austerity measures to stimulate economic recovery.

To begin with, he and his 12 Ministers would accept a 10 per cent cut in their salaries and all ministries would effect a 20 per cent reduction in expenditure. User charges would be increased, bulk purchasing of essential commodities would be examined and a system of licensing would be introduced to ensure that non-essential goods were not imported in such quantities as to upset the balance of trade.

Mr Compton called for a link between wages and productivity in all sectors and announced that guidelines would be given to local commercial banks on credit ceilings and on the spread of their lending between productive, investment and consumer expenditure.

He warned: "If we do not make these measures work, then there is no way to turn except to face the rigours of the International Monetary Fund and have its discipline imposed upon us."

Another major tool in the Government's plans for economic recovery will be the mobilisation of domestic savings and checking the drain of capital from the country.

In the last two years, two new financial institutions, the National Commercial Bank and the St Lucia Development Bank have opened. The Government is hoping too that the decision by the Organisation of East Caribbean States to establish a Central Bank by April would go a considerable way towards plugging the holes through which millions of dollars filter out of the island annually.

The Government has repeatedly expressed concern over this situation. Mr Compton himself recently informed Parliament that some EC\$260m left the country every year to pay for goods and services, some of which were never received here. The Government contends that in some cases, capital was being exported illegally.

An initial attempt to stem the flow was taken last June, when the Government introduced a 2.5 per cent levy on all foreign capital transactions.

Meanwhile, returns from the main revenue spinners — tourism, agriculture and industry — are all down, although official figures were not available.

ADDITIONAL VIEWS ON REPRESENTATION OF PEOPLE ACT

New Democratic Party

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 11 Mar 83 p 1

[Text]

Our general criticism of the Representative People Act remains as published in the joint document with UPM and FWM.

I will now add some opinions based on experience of elections in 1966, 1967, 1972, 1974, 1979 and 1980.

At this stage of our history what really matters about the electoral process is not only who wins but by what means and what kind of country we end up with. Is democracy, for example, enhanced, or are we going down the road to fraudulence, Guyana style.

The climate of an election should be one in which all parties are happy about the rules. In our case only the governing Labour Party is satisfied. How would we feel if the much-canvassed Grenada elections occurred and the Opposition parties started screaming foul play. We in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada's closest neighbour, have a responsibility to establish an electoral model which is so fool-proof that others will be embarrassed to produce anything less fair.

Let me repeat what I said in Parliament among the many points that were ignored. We need an

Electoral Commission representative of the responsible political parties in Parliament and under the chairmanship of someone of integrity approved by all parties. If necessary, the constitution should be amended to give such an institution real authority.

Next, no voter should ever be disenfranchised by omission. Every election I've known in the last seventeen years has witnessed the problems of previously

registered voters not finding their names on the new list. In my view, it should be the responsibility of the Supervisor of Elections to ensure that all previously registered individuals who have not changed their address be entitled to vote. If such a person is not on the current list, then he should be entitled to vote under the old list. It should not be the responsibility of previously registered voters to see that their names are registered on a new list.

There should be no number on the voters' card, but only on the counterfoil. This would eliminate the kind of threats used in the Union Island by-election. "If you don't vote for us, we'll see

your number, and beat up your family in prison in St. Vincent tonight". Or in the general election, "If you don't vote for us and we find out the same hands that give you the lumber will burn your house down."

I regret I cannot suggest a legal remedy to the greatest problem of elections in St. Vincent that is, BRIBERY. As long as people want to be bribed they will be bribed. I only pray that the

day will come that the voters will understand that when they elect politicians through bribery, those politicians so elected will in turn collect bribes. Our standards of morality are thus steadily re-enforced, and we get a government no better than we deserve.

One of these days we'll have to understand that honesty and fairplay, grounded in free choice at election time, are in the best interest of us all.

United People's Movement

Kingston THE VINCENTIAN in English 11 Mar 83 pp 1, 12

[Text]

"The Representation of the People Act 1982 (RPA), an Act which replaces the Legislative Council (Elections) Act of 1951 and governs the conduct of elections in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, became law in December 28, 1982. In January 1982 the UPM, together with the NDP and the Farmers and Workers Group, issued a joint response to the

Act which still remains the basis of our objections to many of its provisions.

CABINET IN CONTROL
One of the most frightening things about the RPA is that it gives the ruling party an unfair advantage over its rivals in the Opposition and provides it with the opportunity to manipulate the elections so as to remain in power regardless of the wishes of the electorate.

First Cabinet will now have the power to appoint many of the officers who oversee the fair conduct of elections. Section 10 of the Act gives the Governor-General not in his own deliberate judgement, but by way of Cabinet, the right to appoint registering officers and "any suitable person to assist any registering officer" who

"may perform or any of the duties of a registering officer."

Similarly Section 24 (2) allows the Governor-General (meaning Cabinet) to appoint a Deputy Supervisor of Elections. There are sections of the Act which are even more glaring. Thus Section 25 empowers Cabinet directly to appoint returning officers and most astonishing of all Section 32 states in part that "the proceedings at an election shall be conducted in accordance with such rules as may be made by Cabinet" (Emphasis ours.)

And that is not all Section 23 (5 b) requires "the approval of Cabinet" before the Supervisor of Elections can make any changes in polling divisions. So Cabinet and the ruling party are going to have a say in who votes where.

Finally the Governor-General (again Cabinet) under Section 31 has the power to postpone elections if there is war, state of emergency, earthquake, hurricane, flood, fire, outbreak of disease or "other calamity" Cabinet

may also put off elections if the voters list is not ready. The latter is a ready-made excuse if the ruling party decides that it is not yet ready to face the polls.

For all these reasons the joint recommendation of the UPM, NDP and FWG in January 1981 had been, that these powers - of appointing officers, of redrawing boundaries of polling divisions, of drawing up election rules and of adjourning elections.

The prerogative of an Election Commission. This we proposed should be made up of representatives nominated by political parties that obtained at least 12.5 percent of the votes cast in the last general elections. The UPM still adheres to this view.

POSSIBILITIES OF FRAUD.

That the RPA opens greater possibilities for fraud at the polls can best be seen in an examination of Section 4. The key to this section is in sub-section (c). Here on the one hand it is stated that "no person shall.... vote without first producing his/her identification card but on the other hand it goes on to state "unless he proves to the

satisfaction of the presiding officer that he has not been issued with an identification card and that such card has been lost or, destroyed

When this provision is taken with others in the same section and in the Act itself it becomes clear that whether intended or not (and we are of the view that it is intentional), it provides opportunities for

double voting. Thus for the first time no red ink is to be used under this Act, the residential qualification is changed from 12 months to three and with continuous registration right up to election, it is

extremely difficult to discover whether names are transferred from one area to another.

It is therefore quite possible for a voter whose name has been transferred, to vote with his card in one area and if the presiding officer in another area is satisfied that he has lost his card or never got one to allow him to vote again without the card since one doesn't have to stain their fingers with red ink.

The UPM objects most strongly to the "unless...." business in this section. No discretion must be given to any presiding officer to permit anyone to vote without identification. ID cards should be issued right up to the day before elections and no person should be allowed to vote without an ID card or some other valid means of identification such as a passport, seamen's ID, police record or the like.

REGISTRATION OR FRUSTRATION.

The new Act has completely changed the system of registration in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and sets out a series of complicated procedures to be followed before one can be registered (SRO) No. 1 of 1982.

First of all one

apply to be registered on an application form (Form 1) but this by itself does not

guarantee registration since the application may be turned down.

However if an enumerator accepts an application for registration (Sec 13 (1)) the applicant is then issued with a registration record card (Form 3) which must be filled out.

Then there is the photo application form (Form 6) which instructs the applicant to carry the filled out form to the nearest "photo centre" to be photographed.

Given the high level of what is called "functional illiteracy" in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the general apathy towards voter registration and the widespread ignorance of the RPA, these cumbersome procedures can only be interpreted as a means of frustrating the electorate in exercising its right to be registered.

Additionally Section 7 of the Act itself sets out how a person's name can be removed from the Voters List. Among these are 7 (c), if one is abroad for more than five years "except in cases of absence for approved studies abroad." What precisely are "approved studies" and who gives the approval? The Act doesn't say.

We propose that anyone who voted at the last elections, is still eligible and in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, should always be able to vote even if that person's name is omitted from the List. If that person can produce a previous Voters List showing his/her name, then he/she would be allowed to vote.

NEW CABINET INSTALLED ; PRESIDENT SPEAKS

Acting President's Commentary

Paramaribo DE WARE TIJD in Dutch 1 Mar 83 p 1

[Report: "Development of Country and People; President Wishes Alibux Cabinet Wisdom and Strength "]

[Text] Acting President L.F. Ramdat Misier yesterday gave the following speech to the newly installed ministers:

"Gentlemen: Today is a very important day for all of you, since you have been called to fulfill the high post of minister in this so meaningful period of our history. Together with the military leaders you are charged with the leadership of Suriname's development and of establishing living conditions for our people which meet the demands applicable to a young country.

Mobilize Nation

"You will encounter problems which require wisdom and insight. The big task for the moment is to give our people, for whom this revolutionary situation is an entirely new experience, faith in themselves and in their people.

"You, civilian and military leaders, are faced with the task of mobilizing the entire nation for the big job that lies ahead. In doing so, you will have to work as a team since experience has proven that progress demands an integrated approach.

"Stability

"Be prepared for the fact that you will be continuously vulnerable to attack, both from the inside and the outside. Therefore it is good not to be fearful and, above all, 'to apply self-criticism and accept constructive criticism.' We should also remember that the cooperation of all citizens will be needed to get the stagnated development going again. Therefore I already said that it is necessary to mobilize the entire nation for this purpose, whereby you, military and civilian authorities, will want to give the highest priority to peace and stability in society.

"True Surinamers

"It is my passionate desire that you succeed in this. And although it is necessary to impose some limits on the citizenry in our development, it is nevertheless my highly cherished expectation that you, the leaders of the country, will be able to maintain a climate in which the civilian can develop free, safe and protected.

"I wish you wisdom, insight and strength, and I have no doubts that with these characteristics and the willingness of our people to set to the task. we will conquer the problems which are facing us. So let us continue with courage, as true Surinamers, on the road to the development of our people and our beloved Suriname. I thank you."

New Government Installed

Paramaribo DE WARE TIJD in Dutch 1 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] The 12 ministers who were sworn in yesterday in the palace make up the fourth government which was installed since the change of power of 25 February 1980 to serve the country and the people. With the installation of the new cabinet an end has come to claims that the Military Authority could not find people who were prepared to take on this task. The members of the Neyhorst Cabinet met their responsibilities as outgoing ministers through yesterday.

Some of them we see back in the composition of the current government, and five new names have been added.

Commander-in-Chief Bouterse previously already characterized this new cabinet as "a government for the working class." This will mean for the members of the government that all their decisions will have to be guided by the interests of the working people.

It is a cause for rejoicing, and faith-inspiring, that all the new cabinet members have already occupied important posts within the revolutionary process, some more in the limelight than others.

Engineer Winston Caldeira, as minister of Finance and Planning, occupied the post of Head of the Planning Bureau until his swearing-in yesterday.

Engineer Willy Chin Joe, of Public Works, Telecommunications and Construction, was technical assistant director of the Planning Bureau until recently.

Engineer Lothar Boksteen, minister of Labor and Public Health, was head of the Nickerie department of Public Works, Telecommunications and Construction in the past. Harold Bharos, minister of Social Affairs, until recently was working as secretary in this same department.

Wilfred Meynaard, known as chairman of the Police Association, now is minister of Army and Police. Notable in this new "setting" is the fact that the administration of Labor has been added to the department of Public Health.

Further, what used to be the department of Culture, Youth and Sports, now has become the department of People's Mobilization and Culture.

Minister Errol Alibux, as is known, used to fulfill the post of minister of Social Affairs, while Engineer Franklin Vreden is back in his post as minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries.

Alibux' Word of Thanks

In a short thank-you speech, Prime Minister Errol Alibux expressed his gratitude for the faith put in him and his cabinet and said that now it was a matter of "proceeding to action in this important period."

Besides the diplomatic corps, many dozens of people from society came to the gates of the palace to congratulate the new government.

Imro Fong Poeng, who currently is abroad for matters of state, was not present at the swearing-in ceremony.

Goedschalk Act. Head of Planning Bureau

Now that the director of the Planning Bureau, Winston Caldeira, has accepted a post in the Alibux Cabinet as minister of Finance and Planning, that post has become vacant.

For the time being Mr Henk Goedschalk, assistant director of the Planning Bureau, will act as head.

PHOTO CAPTIONS

1. The new cabinet was sworn in yesterday. Photo: Prime Minister Errol Alibux is sworn in by a Maulvi while President Fred Ramdat Misier and Director of Foreign Affairs Philip Akrum look on.

The Alibux Cabinet

The new government which was installed on 28 February 1983 is composed of the following persons:

2. Prime Minister and Minister of General and Foreign Affairs Errol Alibux.
3. Minister of Social Affairs Harold Bharos.
4. Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Erik Tjon Sie Kim.
5. Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Frank Vreden.
6. Minister of Internal Affairs and Justice Frank Leeflang.
7. Minister of Army and Police Wilfred Meynaard.
8. Minister of Finance and Planning Winston Caldeira.

9. Minister of Public Health and Labor Lothar Boksteen.
10. Minister of Public Works, Telecommunications and Construction Willy Chin Joe.
11. Minister of Education and Science Glenn Sankatsingh.
12. Minister of People's Mobilization and Culture Badresein Sital.
13. Minister of Trade, Transport and Industry Imro Fong Poen.

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May 3, 1983